

Collaborative Adventures



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All Families and Communities have Strengths

Collaborative Adventures has highlighted strengths and successes several times over the past five years. The word strength has such power in systems of care, it has almost become a buzzword. This issue we want to celebrate the successes of the families and also the strengths of your communities. Collectively, these stories show how every day Indiana is contributing to a larger, national movement to support systems of care.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction embraces the values of a system of care, and has worked to develop policies that support individualized care in each community. This issue celebrates just some of the successes in Indiana. You can find more information about these successes online in the Choices TA Center page at www.ChoicesTeam.org.

- Lisa Bishop, Putnam County System of Care coordinator won the Bessie Rector award at a candlelight vigil to honor victims of child abuse that Putnam County holds each April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Bessie Rector Award is to recognize those who work directly with families and children to prevent child abuse. Congratulations Lisa!
- Brenda Konradi coordinator for One Community One Family system of care in five counties in southeastern Indiana tells us about their collaboration with the Department of Child Services to host a provider fair for Community Alternatives grant provider recruitment. So far 40 vendors are participating!
- The Washington County System of Care is approaching the end of its grant cycle. They've experienced many successes over the last two years which has led to a full case load and a commitment from the Department of Child Services to help sustain their system of care.
- Linda Robledo-Fisher, White County System of Care coordinator, shares a success about a parent in her community who is participating in their local system of care: "Through the support of a child and family team one of our parents found new energy and strength to be able to take care of her family on her own. Her first goal was to deal with an abusive relationship and be able to transport her children without assistance from her boyfriend. She needed to take care of a history of traffic violations, obtain a driver's license and transportation. She went to court and took care of her previous fines and violations and received insurance through flexible funding. The community has supported this family to help them to succeed - a car was donated to them from a church member and an anonymous individual provided a 1-year membership to the fitness center, and all children are in summer sports. Another individual donated \$300, which the family is using for bathing suits, socks, underwear and individual toiletries!!!"
- Floyd County is also nearing the end of their DMHA System of Care development grant cycle. They've received a wealth of community support and have had major successes in keeping kids in the community and with their families. They have an outstanding family led support group that truly partners with their child and family teams. The family led support group provides encouragement and guidance nearly 24 hours a day. Due to their numerous successes, they are closing in on a sustainability plan that will not only fund what they've built so far but will allow them to hire an additional wraparound facilitator.

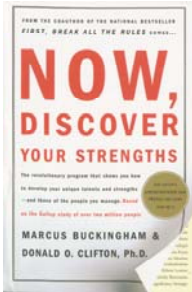
- The Division of Mental Health and Addiction continues to provide grant funding to communities looking to develop a system of care. DMHA has supported more than 60 of the 92 counties in Indiana.

These successes are just a small sample of successes highlighted in our online newsletter. They demonstrate not only the large impact that your work has on your own community, but that you are helping the national systems of care movement to become stronger. To share your success e-mail us at tkuprewicz@ChoicesTeam.org



Resources for Developing Strengths

In systems of care celebrating successes and focusing on strengths are core to the practice. Thanks to a recent appearance on the Oprah Show, Marcus Buckingham is bringing world-wide attention to the importance of focusing on strengths. If you are looking for some good reading this summer, we recommend checking out one of these great books on strength-based discovery.



Now Discover Your Strengths

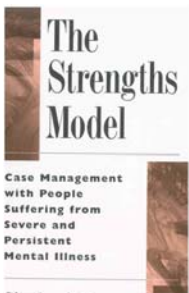
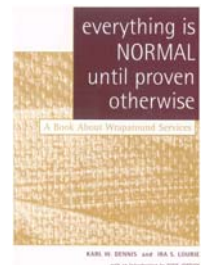
by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton

Effectively managing personnel--as well as one's own behavior--is an extraordinarily complex task that, not surprisingly, has been the subject of countless books touting what each claims is the true path to success. That said, Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton's *Now, Discover Your Strengths* does indeed propose a unique approach: focusing on enhancing people's strengths rather than eliminating their weaknesses.

Everything is NORMAL Until Proven Otherwise

by Karl W. Dennis and Ira S. Lourie

Wraparound, or individualized services, is rooted in the principles of individualized, community-based, strengths-focused services. In *Everything is NORMAL Until Proven Otherwise*, Dennis and Lourie use the art of storytelling to illustrate central tenets of the wraparound approach such as unconditional care, focusing on strengths and community-based care.



The Strengths Model

by Charles A. Rapp

Rapp co-developed the strengths model of case management and the client-centered performance model of social administration. The Strengths Model is the first text to focus exclusively on the strengths model of practice, which focuses on helping people, not as clients, but as individuals.