

Collaborative Adventures



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Resources for Research and Evaluation

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The Choices TA Center is always working to improve the accessibility of information regarding systems of care in Indiana, and nationally. If you haven't visited the TA Center website at <http://www.choicesteam.org/tacenter.html> recently, then you are missing out. We are also exploring the planning to have our Indiana System of Care Resource Manual, and all of its wonderful information available online. Basic System of Care and Wraparound trainings are also available online for CA-PRTF providers.

Additionally, a process that is taking place in Indiana is the Consumer Service Review (CSR). Human Services and Outcomes, consultants based in Tallahassee, Florida, work with DMHA to train reviewers and provide leadership for a review of approximately 24 cases at each of five children's mental health center programs reviewed each year. The reviewers complete interviews with case managers, therapists, family members, teachers, guidance counselors, foster parents, psychiatrists and others connected with each child and family. A strong piece of the CSR looks at communication among service providers. Many centers have received the recommendation to spread system of care principles throughout their practice. Choices TA Center has provided follow-up training for the centers that participated in the CSR based on their results and identified needs.

In this issue of Collaborative Adventures, we are focusing on some of the resources available at www.wrapinfo.org. At this website, you can access the Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team, or WERT. The website was created to facilitate dissemination of the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) and to promote understanding within the service delivery evaluation field about the importance of maintaining fidelity to the wraparound process. The WFI has been utilized as an important tool to gauge progress in adherence to wraparound fidelity in Indiana since 2004. Brilljent, a woman owned and operated company headquartered in Ft. Wayne has administered the WFI in Indiana as a subcontractor for Choices TA Center. The focus now is to assess fidelity for child and family teams participating in the Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Grant (CA-PRTF). Teams taking part in the WFI process participate in interviews involving the identified caregiver, the wraparound facilitator (care coordinator) and the youth if 11 years of age or older. As the CA-PRTF grant continues to grow, teams and communities will begin to receive feedback on their adherence to the principles of wraparound. The WFI is a very useful tool to assist in assessing whether or not the wraparound process is actually being achieved with teams.

Another tool available through WERT to determine the level of system wide support is the Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory (CSWI). The CSWI is a research and quality improvement tool intended to measure how well a local system supports the implementation of the wraparound process. The CSWI is based on the framework of Necessary Conditions described by Walker, Koroloff and Schutte (2003), and presents 42 community or system variables that ideally are in place in communities that aim to implement the wraparound process. Costs associated with use of the CSWI depend upon the size of the community assessed. A standard community will be charged \$1200, and this includes implementation of the survey, as well as a complete report of results. Some community assessments that are larger in scale (e.g., statewide or a county with multiple regions) will be charged additionally for each sub-community assessed. For an example of a CSWI report, visit http://depts.washington.edu/wrapeval/docs/CSWI_Anonymous_Report_3Dec08.pdf or go to wrapinfo.org and click on the WERT link for detailed information on the WFI, the CSWI and all topics related to research and evaluation of the wraparound process and systems of care.

Walker, J.S., Koroloff, N., & Schutte, K. (2003). Implementing high-quality collaborative Individualized Service/Support Planning: Necessary conditions. Portland, OR: Portland State University, Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health.