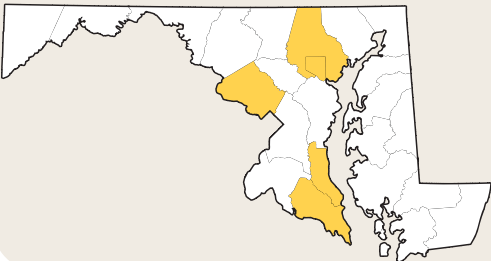




Maryland Annual Report 2008



Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen individuals and families by advancing community systems of care.

Maryland Choices, a nonprofit care management entity (CME), began operations in 2005. As a growing regional CME within the state of Maryland, Maryland Choices combines funding from multiple governmental entities and manages a process of support and services that are individualized around each child and family with intensive needs. Maryland Choices uses wraparound as the practice model to serve families and children in a strengths-based, team driven process. We serve youth throughout the state of Maryland and each site is designed to cater to the unique needs of each community, with a focus on multi-agency collaboration while remaining family-driven.

Maryland Choices focuses on providing new levels of support for youth that go beyond just typical services, and tie together natural supports based in the home communities of the youth we serve. We believe care plans should be individualized and focused on the unique needs and strengths of each youth and their family. Three core elements of what set us apart are our ability to utilize flexible funding to serve youth, our diverse provider network, and the use of child and family teams.

Program Highlights

The Governor's Office for Children has recognized that the costs of out-of-home placements are increasing for youth with intensive needs. In collaboration with local management boards, Maryland Choices achieved the following results in fiscal year 2008.

Montgomery County

- 93% of youth moved to or remained in a less restrictive environment
- 90% of youth enrolled in school are attending at least 80% of the time

Baltimore Region

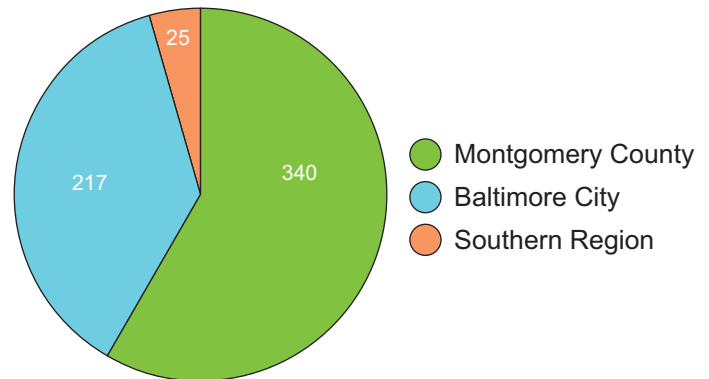
- 95% of youth remained in the community and were successfully diverted from group home care, resulting in a cost avoidance of approximately \$8.5 million
- 3 out of 4 youth experienced an improvement in their day-to-day functioning

Southern Maryland Region

- 80% of youth moved to a less restrictive environment

Wraparound Fidelity Index Scores

Maryland Choices achieved a combined total fidelity score of 83%, which is considered good fidelity. Combined overall scores of 80% or more have been found to be associated with programs and facilitators that achieve superior child and family outcomes.



Youth Served, by Site

Demographic Highlights:

Race

African American - 61%
Caucasian - 19%
Other - 15%
Biracial - 4%
Asian Pacific Islander - 1%
Native American - <1%

Average Age at Enrollment

14.6 Years

Gender

66% Male, 34% Female

During the course of fiscal year 2008, Maryland Choices served more than 580 youth

Benefits of Care Management

Care Management Entities bring a variety of benefits to communities looking to advance their system of care. For example, CMEs:

- Develop comprehensive provider networks
- Manage funding from multiple agencies
- Provide clinical outcomes and fiscal accountability
- Create individualized care planning and intensive care coordination

Individualized Care and Child and Family Teams

A key component of the success of Maryland Choices' practice model is the child and family team. A child and family team is comprised of the youth being served, family members, friends and members of the community. Together this team focuses on the unique strengths and needs of the youth and develops a plan of care specifically catering to those needs. Care coordinators help implement those plans, utilizing funding pooled from multiple agencies.

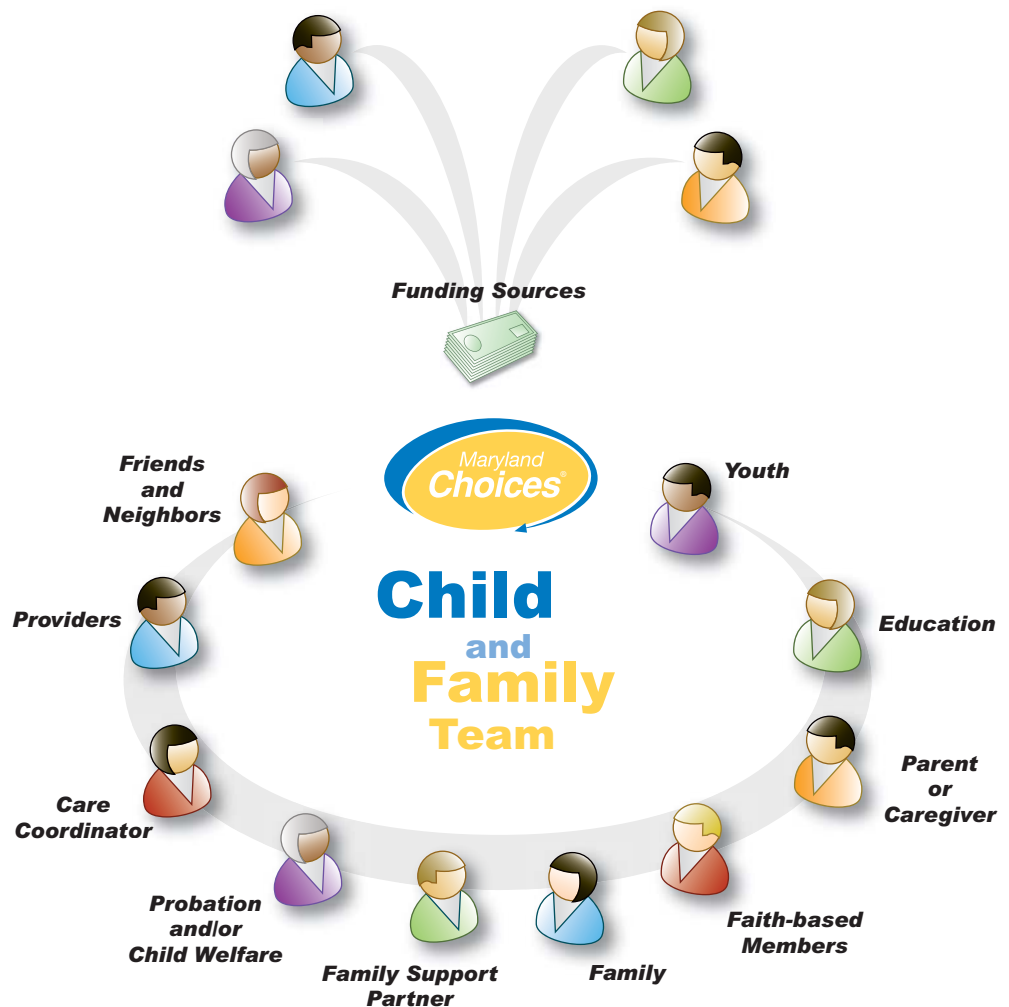
In 2008 Maryland Choices served more than 580 youth their families, each of which utilized a child and family team. Youth are served in their own community as often as possible and families are encouraged and supported in creating child and family teams that are unique to their culture and community. By helping families drive their own care, Maryland Choices provides a venue for families to grow and become their own coordinators of care.

The CME Model Recognized

"Early data from Maryland's CMEs signify that this model has been effective for the target population, particularly those who are at risk of entering a RTC. Similarly, national data indicate that the wraparound model, particularly when embedded in a CME structure, can achieve significant outcomes and improve well-being for a variety of populations of youth and families with multisystem involvement or at very high risk for such involvement."

-Excerpt from *The Maryland Care Management Model: Care coordination using high-fidelity wraparound that supports the strengths and needs of youth with complex needs and their families*

Published by the Maryland Child and Adolescent Innovations Institute and Mental Health Institute, University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Medicine.



More than 150 different agencies provide support to youth and families referred to Maryland Choices

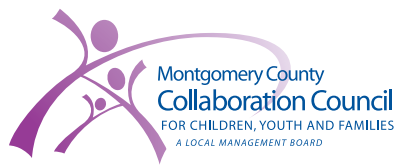
Cost Avoidance

Maryland Choices estimates a cost avoidance of \$12,751,797 during fiscal year 2008. If the 332 youth served in the group home diversion and residential treatment center diversion programs had not been successfully served in the community, the cost to the State of Maryland would have exceeded \$20.1 million, compared to the \$7.3 million spent on wraparound. Maryland Choices is a cost effective alternative for youth with serious emotional disturbances.

Funding for Maryland Choices is provided by:

- Governor's Office for Children
- Governor's Office of Crime Control Prevention
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Maryland Choices would like to thank these local management boards, whose contracts coordinate funding for our programs and lead to the successful care for our youth.



**Baltimore County
Local Management
Board**

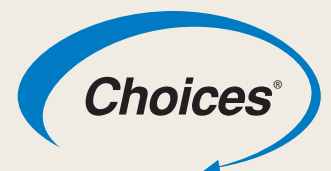


Maryland Choices would like to thank the Montgomery County Federations of Families and the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health, for their continued partnership and support in serving families.

The state of Maryland was able to avoid spending approximately \$12.8 million by serving youth in the community.

A Care Management Service by Choices, Inc.

Choices is a leading provider of wraparound for communities with large populations of youth in or at risk of out-of-home placement. Our care management programs work to eliminate barriers within government systems by pooling existing public funds to offer the flexibility needed to coordinate community resources across a wide range of service providers. This flexibility is critical so youth and their families can access the individualized care they need. Our approach aims to avoid duplication of services and shorten lengths of stay in the system.



Helping You Change Lives®

Visit Us Online At:
www.ChoicesTeam.org