

## Spotlight: Interagency Family Preservation Services

Maryland Choices served 68 youth during fiscal year 2011 that were referred through the Interagency Family Preservation (IFPS) Gatekeeper's Network for participation in a modified wraparound process. Families and youth received care coordination to develop individualized plans of care from which services and resources were linked to address identified needs.

### Demographics



**43% Male / 57% Female**  
**Average Age: 14**

### Program Performance Measure: Restrictiveness of Living Arrangement

**99%**

Youth that remained in the community during their enrollment.

### Program Performance Measure: Increased Family Self Sufficiency

**84%**

Youth that are currently not involved in the juvenile justice system

**98%**

Youth that did not run away or engage in delinquent behaviors that threatened the community.

**100%**

Youth that did not exhibit any behaviors that would place themselves or others at risk for harm.

### Program Performance Measure: Family Satisfaction

**89%**

Families that indicated IFPS provided the skills, knowledge and supports for the caregiver to manage family needs.

**91%**

Families that indicated IFPS engaged youth and family in a respectful, professional and competent manner.

**97%**

Families that indicated the IFPS program provided quality services.

### Nina's Success

Nina and her family were referred to Maryland Choices Interagency Family Preservation Services (IFPS) by Montgomery County Core Service Agency in November 2010 with several risk factors, including financial, housing, and mental health issues. When Nina was referred, she was living with her maternal aunt due to alleged abuse by her father. Nina's mother lives out of the country. Other family members offered support for Nina, but their living and work circumstances did not allow them to provide the structure she needed. The child and family team (CFT) quickly learned about Nina's beloved godmother, Ms. S., who was willing and able to be her guardian. Nina's care coordinator facilitated communication and documentation among Nina's mother, extended family members, and Montgomery County Child Welfare, so that Ms. S. could be named Nina's guardian and Nina could move to her house.

The CFT worked closely with Nina's large family and Ms. S. to make sure Nina received the support she needed in her new home. Ms. S. helped Nina transfer to a new high school, where her school performance improved with the help of an after school tutoring service. Nina also participated in several school clubs.

When IFPS closed in February 2011, Nina continued to participate in individual therapy and do volunteer work with the Foundation of Youth. She had been so successful in her work with the younger children, that the program asked her to continue after IFPS closed. With help from Nina's team and her large extended family, she has plans to access needed health services and child support. But best of all, Nina has gained confidence in her ability to seek out academic and social opportunities for herself.

## Spotlight: Montgomery County

Since 2005, Maryland Choices has served as the Care Management Entity for Montgomery County, impacting the development and movement of an innovative system of care for all families. An important component of our success has been our continued partnership with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families. During FY11, this partnership continued to offer new opportunities for increasing the relevance of the wraparound process to the various service delivery systems, as well as embedding system of care values within our community of providers and stakeholders.

### Demographics



**65% Male / 35% Female**  
**Average Age: 14**

## Youth in Montgomery County are Succeeding

**100%**

100% of youth did not exhibit any behaviors that put themselves or others at risk of harm.

**96%**

96% of youth remained at or moved to a less restrictive placement.

**98%**

98% of youth did not run away, engage in delinquent behaviors or engage in behaviors that threatened the community.

**85%**

85% of youth did not have any contact with the juvenile justice system.

### Luis' Success

Luis is a 17 year old Hispanic male that has been involved with Maryland Choices since December 2009, stemming from threats to blow up his school, and for his gang involvement. He has received two extensions in the program due to the nature of his situation. Luis' child and family team has been supporting him with school achievement and attendance, effective family communication, immigration status issues, and helping the family with basic necessities.

Shortly after the team obtained the first extension from the Local Coordinating Council for Luis and his family, Luis' mother was detained by immigration police. She remains in detention pending deportation. The absence of Luis' mother has greatly affected Luis and worsened the already strained relationship between Luis and his stepfather.

In addition to his mother being detained and out of the home, Luis' aunt, who had planned to take Luis in, was also detained by immigration. Further aggravating his challenges, in early 2011 Luis' stepfather was also detained by immigration. He was released the same day but is now under house arrest. Luis assumed care-giving responsibilities for his two younger siblings, ages 13 and 6.

Luis' team is helping to address many needs. Luis is currently involved in weekly individual and family therapy sessions. As Luis has a history of conflict with his stepfather, the stepfather participates in family therapy when appropriate. To help him academically, Luis also has weekly sessions with his guidance counselor at his high school. His goal is to continue onto the 11th grade and graduate on time with his classmates next year. The team was also able to obtain "Bridges for Success" vouchers to help Luis and his family with basic necessities. The team also supported the family with financial assistance for legal representation and housing purposes, and has coordinated psychiatric evaluation for Luis, who is now responsibly taking medication to address his ADHD diagnosis.

Luis is now successfully employed in Silver Spring, Maryland. Not only does Luis continue to care for his two younger siblings, he has also increased his financial contributions in the home. Luis has learned to communicate better and has learned to implement coping skills when things in the home become hostile. Both Luis and his stepfather are coping without Luis' mother being present.