

Children's Mental Health Quarterly Update
Department of Human Services
Addictions and Mental Health Division
July 2007

**Governor's Statewide Children's Wraparound Project
Committees Meet**

The Children's Statewide Wraparound Project Steering Committee met on April 27th and June 15th. The committee is charged with submitting a strategic plan to the governor by October 2007. The plan will let the state:

- Provide care and support services for emotional, behavioral or substance abuse problems as early as possible to increase academic achievement in school and reduce the number of children entering foster care or the juvenile justice system with such needs;
- Tailor services, to the greatest extent possible, based on the needs of individual children and families, rather than on systematic requirements;
- Emphasize the self-determination of children and families in designing their own care and support services; and
- Maximize the availability of resources for children and youth across systems to ensure access to the appropriate behavioral health services and other support services.

Additionally, four subcommittees have been formed. The Local Implementation Subcommittee is charged with developing recommendations to implement the system of care approach in Oregon communities. The Finance Subcommittee will recommend approaches for sharing resources across child serving systems to promote system of care principles and values. The Data and Evaluation Subcommittee will recommend approaches to evaluating programmatic and financial outcomes of the statewide system of care. The Cultural Competency Subcommittee will recommend approaches for embedding cultural competent care into the statewide system of services and supports for children and their families.

Additional information can be found on the DHS website at:
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/wraparound/main.shtml>

May 8, 2007: Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

A statewide event was held at the Capitol Mall in Salem between 10 and 3 p.m. Children, families, advocates, state employees, and legislators gathered for a variety of activities. "Armed" with kazoos, whistles and posters, there was a youth parade around the Capitol Mall that ended on the Capitol steps for a rally. The school counselor at Falls City Elementary School brought a busload of youth to join in the celebration just as the parade was starting.

At noon, an assortment of speakers addressed the group regarding Children's Mental Health: several youth shared their experiences with the mental health system, and the group also heard from mental health supporters within the legislature; Senator Gordly, Senator Westlund, Representative Boone, and Representative Gelser all shared their support for children's mental health issues. Representative Edwards from Lane County shared a particularly touching story regarding his childhood and his son, who has an autism spectrum disorder. Several of the speakers recounted personal experiences with children's mental health disorders that had been challenging and yet successfully managed.

School children visiting the Capitol participated in the activities. A barbecue was held by the local Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN) affiliate as a fundraiser. The Governor proclaimed May 8 Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

OFSN plans on this becoming an annual event, and planning will begin this summer for next year. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved in 2008's celebration. Mark your calendar now - May 8, 2008 - make a day of it at the Capitol! Activities statewide included:

- In Portland, Wraparound Oregon spearheaded a group of 40 attendees at Portland City Hall, where Mayor Tom Potter read a proclamation in support of children's mental health. There were speakers: Multnomah County Chief Family Law Judge, two Family Advisory Members, Multnomah County Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Director of ChristieCare. Members of the audience were asked to make a commitment to volunteer in children's and/or family causes to remember this day. Multnomah County Library displayed books for children and adults on mental health issues/stories. The Heart Gallery displayed photos of children waiting for foster homes.

- In Lincoln City, fundraising efforts were supported by US Bank, and May was deemed Children's Mental Health Awareness month.
- In the mid-Columbia region, students were given information about youth depression and its treatment, and a local rally was held.
- In Southern Oregon, Southern Oregon Adolescent Study and Treatment Center sponsored a pancake breakfast with several national speakers.

OFSN Trainings Bring Families and Professionals Together

The Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN), supporting families whose youth have emotional or mental health needs, has just finished their recent contract year with DHS/AMH. Within the contract they continue to train *Families & Professionals as Policy Partners*, provided two daylong seminars, with 12 family members and 20 professionals attending this year. One of the objectives of the trainings is to provide family members with information so they feel comfortable being involved in a meaningful way while sitting on advisory councils or boards and workgroups within the mental health delivery system.

Another outcome is that family members and professionals have the opportunity to work together toward common goals to further develop good working partnerships within the mental health system. A deliverable for OFSN was to develop a curriculum with youth involvement for the *Youth and Professionals as Policy Partners* and provide one training. The training was well received with good youth participation (9) and four professionals attending. Both youth and professionals have asked that the curriculum be taught in other communities next year.

Level of Need Determination Data Analyzed

As of March 2007, almost 1,300 children were seen by their mental health provider for a Level of Need Determination screening. The mean age of children who were screened was 12.7. The majority of screenings (58%) were for boys. 84% of children who met criteria for the Integrated Service

Array (ISA) were recommended to either Level 4 or Level 5 care, and an additional 5% of the children were recommended to Level 6 care.

Children who met criteria for the ISA received a total of 2,185 episodes of service, per CPMS data, that either spanned or followed the date that they were determined to meet criteria. Most of the service episodes (about 61%) have been outpatient mental health service episodes. However, a sizeable number of the service episodes have been for higher levels of care: about 9% of the service episodes have been for psychiatric day treatment, and about 19% have been for psychiatric residential treatment. Additionally, 4.5% of the service episodes have been for outpatient alcohol and drug treatment, and about 0.5% of the service episodes have been for residential alcohol and drug treatment.

Inquires about this data can be directed to Marion David, AMH/PAE Unit, Marion.David@state.or.us.

Ongoing CSCI Meetings

- Children's System Advisory Committee (CSAC) – meets 4th Friday of the month
- Quality Data Improvement Workgroup (QDIG) – meets 1st Wednesday of the month

For more information, go to the AMH website at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/child-mh-soc-in-plan-grp/main.shtml>