



WrapAround/Children's Aid Society PILOT PROJECT

Evaluation Update as of February 2008

<u>PHASE ONE GOALS</u>	START OF PROJECT 2007	FEBRUARY 2008
<p>1) To prevent children, age 10 – 17 from coming into care</p> <p>2) To support youth who were in high cost care to successfully transition a) back into their families or b) into lower cost care facilities.</p>	<p>Of the eleven families who have participated in WrapAround: seven (7) were in residential placements (2 of the 7 were in directly funded beds/no cost to the Society); the remaining three (3) were residing in family based care (home or with kin); and, one (1) withdrew from the project.</p>	<p>Of the ten families/youth engaged in Phase One of the project:</p> <p>4 or 40% of the youth went from high cost group care to home</p> <p>3 or 30% of the youth that were in high cost care remained in high cost programs. However, WrapAround services remain in place with the goal of moving these children to family based/lower cost care</p> <p>3 or 30% who started in family based care (home or kin) remained in these less intrusive arrangements. Basically, children were prevented from coming into care</p>
OBJECTIVES	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>To provide high fidelity WrapAround for ten families involved with the</p>	<p>Of the initial ten families that were selected, one family indicated that they</p>	<p>By February 2008- 8 of the original</p>

Children's Aid Society	no longer required the service at the beginning of the process and subsequently another family was selected. The parent in another family resigned during the process. All but two families remain involved with the Children's Aid Society. Two families are closed to the Society because of success and remain involved with WrapAround.	families/youth remain open to the CAS and WrapAround. One family has successfully closed its CAS file, but remain involved with the WrapAround process, and one family has successfully ended its relationship with both the CAS and WrapAround.
PHASE TWO GOALS	MAY 2007	FEBRUARY 2008
<p>1) To prevent children, age 8 – 17 from coming into care</p> <p>2) To support youth who are in high cost care to successfully transition (a) back into their families or (b) into lower cost care facilities</p>	<p>11 families/youth selected for Phase Two of the Project.</p> <p>5 of the youth were residing in high cost residential programs (2 of these 5 were in directly funded beds/no cost to the Society); 4 were living with their families (2 with birth families, 2 with kin members); 1 was living independently; 1 was residing in foster care;</p>	<p>2 or 18% of the youth residing in high cost care moved home</p> <p>1 youth (directly funded bed) in a high cost care program withdrew from the project</p> <p>2 or 18% of the high cost care youth remained in high cost care arrangements</p> <p>1 youth or 9% moved from foster care to home</p> <p>4 or 36% of the youth who resided in family based settings remained in these arrangements. These children were prevented from coming into care</p> <p>1 youth remained living</p>

		independently, but plans are to reunite her home with her infant and birth parent(s)
To provide high fidelity WrapAround for ten families involved with the Children's Aid Society	All ten families (one withdrew) were assigned to WrapAround facilitators and one Liaison Meeting had taken place with the Phase Two CAS social workers and the WrapAround Facilitators.	Two (2) families did not engage with the process

Statistical Data:

Gender Breakdown:

18/22 (82%) youth were males
4/22 (18%) were females

Age Breakdown:

6/22 (27%) were between 8 – 11 years of age
9/22 (41%) were between 12 – 14 years of age
7/22 (39%) were between 15 – 16 years of age
Clearly a majority (73%) of the youth involved in the project were between 12 – 16 years of age

Length of Involvement with CAS:

Cases that have been open to CAS ranged anywhere from 1 to 10 years (1998 - present). Impressive gains were made in a short time period (2 years or less) when WrapAround services were introduced to these highly stressed youth and their families

CAFAS Scores:

17/22 (77%) had completed CAFAS scores at the initial phase of the project
12/22(55%) had completed CAFAS scores at the six month period
7/12 (32%) had completed CAFAS scores at the twelve month period

11/13 (85%) of the youth had drastic reductions (90 or less) in their CAFAS scores. These reductions in CAFAS scores over time suggest that measures/interventions/changes have positively impacted the children/youth so as to reduce previous functional impairment. A reduction in total score below 90, suggests that no longer are the children/youth struggling to an extent that would warrant an intensive response.

2/13 (15%) had increased CAFAS scores indicating more stress and poorer adjustment in their lives since starting with the project.

Outcomes:

12/20 (60%) of the youth were residing in high cost residential care placements

6/12 (50%) of these youth in high cost placements went home

5/12 (42%) of these youth were in residential beds paid for by the Society

Cost Savings for the organization regarding these youth were \$303,271.16

Name of Child	Days out of Group Care/Funded by the Society (from time of discharge to end of Feb. 2008)	Cost Savings
K.G.	230	\$91,038.60
K.W.	93	\$46,351.20
D.H.	239	\$56,590.42
K.H.	266	\$65,824.36
K.L.	113	\$43,466.58
Totals	5	\$303,271.16

* the per diem rates in group care for the month of January were used for calculation purposes

Two of the high cost care youth resided with directly funded organizations (CPRI – no cost to the organization), but one ended up in a high cost OPR placement (cost to the Society) Added cost to the Society for this one youth for the month of February was \$3334.80 (these will be ongoing costs of \$238.20 per day). This child is likely to remain in this high cost facility.

Overall cost savings with respect to youth in high cost care, as of the end of February 2008 were \$299,936.36 (\$303,271.16 – \$3334.80).

Overall cost savings for the Society while investing in this program were approximately \$194,936.36 (\$299,936.36 - \$105,000.00 (costs of the program to CSCN)).

One could speculate that if it were not for this service, a number of children may have been brought into care which would have added to the boarding costs for the Society.

Final Comments:

The feedback from the CAS social workers and the WrapAround facilitators has been overwhelmingly positive. Seasoned CAS child protection staff has acknowledged that they were skeptical at the outset of the project that any meaningful change could be accomplished with some of the most challenging of clients. However, they have been impressed with the WrapAround philosophy and commitment to the model. In addition, they have reported that they have learned so much clinically regarding a different way of engaging families and youth which is in keeping with the Agency’s strength-based approach to practice. Families and youth involved in the project have voiced positive feedback and are now feeling empowered

and stronger because of their experiences with this service delivery model. Notwithstanding the decrease in the number of youth and children in care as being the primary goal has also been achieved.

It will be important to have liaison staff members identified from both organizations if this service is to be viable and sustainable. It needs a constant profile (otherwise interest may wane) and referral processes need to be clear and easily implemented within the CAS and with CSCN.

Given the limited sample size and length of time spent on gathering and analyzing the data on a short term basis, the outcomes are quite impressive. Youth have either remained with their respective families and were not admitted to care. Excellent progress was made with difficult to serve youth in high cost care arrangements. Overall this program was well received by staff and serves as an excellent strength based model of service delivery. This pilot project supports the need for this service to be incorporated into the Society's budget on an annual basis.