

Facts about EMQ Children & Family Services “Wraparound” Program

April 8, 2004

Children’s mental illness and emotional disabilities are a “silent epidemic”

- 1 in 10 children in the U.S. suffer from some sort of mental health problem. Most common diagnoses are depression and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).*
- 60% of children with serious mental health needs don’t graduate from high school. Fewer than 10% of public schools have mental health services.*
- At least 20% of youth in the juvenile justice system suffer from severe mental illness. The number can be as high as 70% if adolescents who have been committed for substance abuse are included.*
- Research studies have shown that up to 37% of youth exiting the foster care system have been incarcerated at least once and up to 35% are or have been homeless.**

What is Wraparound?

Wraparound is an approach to implementing individualized, comprehensive services for youth with complicated multi-dimensional problems.

Who is served by Wraparound?

- Nearly half of the children served have a family history of substance abuse, one-third have been physically abused, and over 20% have been sexually abused.
- Risk behaviors include fighting, stealing, vandalism, running away, self-mutilation, cruelty to animals, fire setting, etc.

Does Wraparound work?

- Since the program’s inception in 1994, 87% of 225 children and adolescents served in Santa Clara County have stayed in their communities (vs. juvenile hall or group homes).
- Between June 1998 and January 2000, 33% of Department of Family and Children Services and Juvenile Probation Department graduates in Santa Clara County had social service dependency or juvenile probation status removed.
- As of May 2001, 60 of the 131 children in the Sacramento County Wraparound Program have been reunited with their families. More than a dozen have been moved to a lower level of care.

Sources:

*Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, Report on Mental Health, January 2001

** U.S. General Accounting Office, “Foster Care: Long Standing Barriers Remain”, June 2002

Dept. of Health & Human Services, “Promising Practices in Children’s Mental Health”, 1998

EMQ Children & Family Services

A brief history of Wraparound legislation in California

- In July 1996, after 3 years of intensive effort by EMQ and its partners (the Social Services Agency, Departments of Mental Health and Probation, and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors), Gov. Pete Wilson signed into law AB 2297 which authorized a pilot project for California's first wraparound program.
- In 1998, Gov. Wilson signed SB 163 (California Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver) a 5-year pilot for flexible use of RCL 12-14 foster care funding statewide. Wraparound was authorized throughout California.
- In August 2000, Gov. Gray Davis signed AB 2706 to expand the group of children eligible (RCL 10-14) for wrap around services as an alternative to institutional care.
- In August 2001, Gov. Davis signed AB 429 that removed the sunset on SB 163 and made Wraparound a permanent program in California.

A brief history of Wraparound in the United States

- Late 1960s to 1970s: early precedents:
 - Brownsdale programs, Canada (John Brown)
 - Kaleidoscope, Chicago (Kark Dennis)
- 1985: Alaska Youth Initiative or AYI (John VanDenBerg)
- Late 1980s: three replications of AYI in Vermont, Idaho and Washington state
- 1990s: Center for Mental Health Services offers grants
 - practice principles, values and standards for service collaboration across child and family serving systems
- 1997: California Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver demonstration project
- 1998: California SB 163 project
 - defines best practices principles, values, practices and standards for service integration across child and family serving systems