

Wraparound Maine

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

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Over 200 families from across the state are involved with Wraparound Maine

Welcome to our second newsletter! Each time we will provide some educational information about the process and tell you about how it is working in Maine.

The Wraparound Process - what can a family expect?

Phase One: Engagement and Team Preparation

A **facilitator** or program representative meets with us to discuss the wrap-around process and listen to our family's story. We discuss our concerns, needs hopes, dreams, and **strengths**. We describe our **vision** for the future. We identify people who care about us as a family as well as people we have found helpful for each family member. We reach agreement with the facilitator about who will come to a meeting to develop a plan and where we should have that meeting.



Phase Two : Initial Plan Development

We attend our first Wraparound Team meeting with people who are providing services to our family as well as people who are connected to us in a supportive role. The Team will: 1.) Come up with a Mission Statement about what we will all be working on together. 2.) Look at our family's needs. Come up with several different ways to meet those needs that match our strengths. 3.) Different team members will take on different tasks we've agreed on. When the meeting is over everyone will leave knowing what they have to do and how to contact other team members

Phase Three : Implementation

Based on our planning meetings, our team has created a written plan of care. We have committed to action steps, team members are committed to do the work, and our team comes together regularly. When our team meets we do four things: 1.) Review our Accomplishments (what we've done and what's been going well); 2.) Assess whether our plan has been working to achieve our goals; 3.) Adjust things that aren't working within the plan; 4.) Assign new tasks to team members

Phase Four: Transition

Even though transitions happen throughout the process, there is a point when we will no longer need to meet regularly with the team. Completion may involve a final meeting of the whole team, a small celebration, or simply saying we are ready to move on. As a family we will get a record of what we did as well as a list of what worked. We will also make a plan for the future including who we can call if we need help or if we need to reconvene our team

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Engaging Schools— Tips from the field



Mobilization Specialist, Gail Percy Fitch has experienced that School personnel on the Collaborative Board is key in helping youth and their families with complex needs have success in their home, school and community. The knowledge of the educational system that they bring, as well as their relationships with families, enrich the Wraparound process. Without their input and integration, we would be missing an integral piece of a child's life when we look at meeting needs in a number of domains. We have been very fortunate to have two members on our Board that are "out of the box thinkers" and are willing to help brainstorm ideas to meet the needs of families and our community. Their willingness to be part of a team strengthens the value that each individual and family in Wraparound brings unique strengths and challenges to the table, and that anything can be accomplished with support, creativity and perseverance.

Patrick Moore, Special Education Director, states, "SAD 75 has committed itself to developing a community based infrastructure for students with learning, behavioral, mental health and social needs for the last twenty years. Many of the student needs are challenging 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and occasionally overwhelm the resolve and resources of the family. The family-school-wraparound system partnership has proven time and again to successfully help a family to keep their child in our community. "SagWrap" has provided the essential community linkage component that has sustained the family's resolve and helped them develop a plan of natural supports. Most importantly, that development was accomplished with the family voice at the center of the plan. SAD 75 relies upon the relationship and involvement of Wraparound to help families overcome whatever obstacle is preventing their child from remaining successfully in the community."

Evaluation Update

Wraparound Maine is being evaluated by a research team at the University of Southern Maine. Dr. Kimberly Bernard and Adam Huron M.P.A. are researching the quality of service provision as well as the outcomes for participating youth and families. The next annual outcome will be released in late spring 2010. This report will include behavioral health outcomes for youth and measures of fidelity to the wrap-around principles for providers.

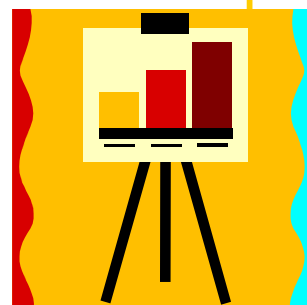
Here are some basic facts about Wraparound Maine derived from the evaluation data:

- At the end of 2008, 214 families had enrolled in Wraparound Maine. By the end of 2009, this number grew to 445 families.

- Youth are most likely to be 15-17 years old when they join Wraparound Maine. Boys tend to be older than girls by about 4.5 months.

- 37% youth were not living in their community when they enrolled. Wraparound Maine seeks to bring youth back to their community setting. Of the 238 families discharged by the end of 2009, 85% were living in their communities at discharge.

Access to evaluation statistics and feedback will soon be enhanced as Wraparound Maine moves to a web-integrated database for information management and reporting. The new data system launched on March 25, 2010.



Life on the Other Side Feels Pretty Good

Pebbles was just turning 14 when her family was referred to Wraparound Maine. She describes her life at that time as 'a big fat mess'. Her mother was in jail, she was living with her father who she had never known, he was drunk all of the time, and she did not listen to his rules. She was suspended from school for being in possession of drug paraphernalia; she had stolen a bike and was on probation. She "didn't care, had a 'whatever' attitude, did whatever I wanted, hated school so getting suspended had no impact". When asked what she envisioned at that time "I expected that I would end up in jail, never thought about what I wanted to do with my life. I figured I would probably become a dealer or maybe kill someone."

Pebbles is now 15 and describes herself as "really happy, always in a good mood. Everything is different, I am getting good grades, I want to go to school, I am doing really good, not getting in trouble. I don't argue with the people I live with." She is still going to 'Wednesday Afternoon Club' at court as per her probation. She told the judge that she would like to be a judge someday and was allowed to sit in the judge's chair and had her picture taken with him.

When asked what changed she said "Sasha made the difference". Sasha was a family friend who happened to be in the right place, at the right time. Pebbles' father refused to enter the court house to stand up with her even after Pebbles pleaded with him. Sasha saw she was upset when her father left, and immediately offered to have Pebbles come and stay with her. Pebbles believes that the presence of her Wraparound Facilitator at court who had maintained ongoing good communication with the team, helped expedite this process and she was able to go home with Sasha that day.

She describes Sasha as someone who calls her on criticizing herself. "She does not get worked up about nothing" and generally she makes everything easier. "She listens to me, I can talk to her about everything, she holds me accountable." Sasha supported her in trying out for cheerleading. Sasha sat in on the practices and helped her learn cheers at home. Sasha also made efforts to keep Pebbles connected to friends and family. Pebbles has stayed connected to her two best friends ".

At school – before vacation they called each student in her program to sit in front of all the teachers and the Assistant Principal to give positive feed back. What she heard was 'she is so bright, I enjoy her presence in the room, she is positive, even on bad days she is nice', really intelligent. She walked out of the room and said "I think it is awesome. That made me feel so good about myself. And she told the Assistant Principal that "they should do this more often." This is the school system that wanted to expel her last year and had said they had given up. With the support of a peer support partner, Pebbles spoke with the Superintendent and successfully advocated to get reinstated. She says "everyone at school loves me and they asked me to be in the sophomore academy next year."

When asked how Wraparound helped – "they would not leave", I tried hard to get rid of it. 'they were annoying', I had to have meetings and go through stuff to make decisions. But...."If wraparound had left – everything happening now wouldn't be." She feels she has input into meetings and she lets people know what is important. When asked what could be better – "I don't really feel like I am being heard. I don't like to be in DHHS custody".

She has become recognized in the court system as someone who has made a concerted effort to change the direction of her life. Judge Kennedy describes her: "She is an example of a really bright kid with loads of natural potential with significant road blocks thrown at her by fate. Who with the help of lots of talented people, Wraparound and Sue Lapreziosa, the facilitator, can continue to be a great success story. "

Pebbles concludes that "Life on the other side feels pretty good".

What are Parents are saying about Wraparound Maine?

Judy Somers is the Regional Parent Support Coordinator for G.E.A.R. Her work has focused on supporting families in crisis and helping facilitate the Bangor Family Advisory Council for Empowerment Statewide (F.A.C.E.S.) council. When asked about the Wraparound program, Judy cannot say enough good things about it. From a personal perspective, she has seen how a team based approach can really pull together and help a family through crisis. Judy says “the part I liked best about the whole process was that our family was asked about what our needs were, instead of being told.” As many parents do, Judy sometimes felt stressed about handling her child’s needs, but the support of the facilitator and the team made everything easier. Her child felt supported in pursuing his education and was able to attend a local learning center. Judy was amazed at his change in behaviors and was excited when her son told her that he was proud of his accomplishments, something he had never said before! From a professional prospective, Judy helps support wraparound and local community efforts through her work with F.A.C.E.S. Her local council contains many wraparound graduates and they have shared their sense of empowerment from completing the program, and the wish to give back. She says that she always advises families about the Wraparound program and how easy it is to access.



Wraparound Maine’s Mission: To strengthen and empower children and youth who have complex behavioral health needs, and their families, so they may live happy, healthy, safe and productive lives in the community

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/wraparound/>