



# TRUMBULL COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

## Family Wraparound Oversight Committee

### 2009 Annual Report

Prepared by:

Margie Alexander, Council Coordinator

Laura Domitrovich, Wraparound Coordinator



## ***FY 2009 Annual Report***

**Mission Statement:** *The Family Wraparound Oversight Committee will promote and support the Wraparound Process to help families stay together and reach their goals. This Committee will support creative strength-based plans to help maintain children and youth in the least restrictive environment.*

### **Executive Summary**

Key highlights of the FY 09 Annual Report in Trumbull County, Ohio include the following:

- Thirty-seven children were enrolled in Trumbull County Wraparound. When including siblings, who also benefit, sixty one children were involved.
- Twenty-nine children were male and eight were female.
- All enrolled children received mental health services.
- Total expenditures for services in the fiscal year were \$317,092.00
- The largest expenditure was for respite services.
- The median cost per child was \$5,151.89.
- The average cost per child was \$8,220.14.
- The range of cost was \$350.00 to \$42,361.96.
- Though at high risk of out-of-home placement, twenty-five were able to remain in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- Of the ten children who were in residential facilities at the beginning of the fiscal year, three were able to move to less restrictive home environments.
- Seven children (four enrolled children and their three siblings) in foster care were able to move to either biological homes, relative homes or adoptive homes.
- Significant improvements were made in Wraparound policies and procedures.
- Trumbull County participated in the development of a standardized training curriculum for use in the Northeast region.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Trumbull County continues to practice Wraparound principles when working with families involved in the county's service coordination process. Wraparound follows four phases to help children and their families realize their potential while addressing complex issues that are disruptive. This planning process brings together members of the family, natural supports and professionals who form the Wraparound team. Wraparound teams are led by trained facilitators who guide the process by adhering to the phases, activities and skill sets of the Wraparound process. The process is based upon ten key principles:

*family voice and choice – team based approach – natural supports  
collaboration – community based – cultural competence – individualized  
strengths based – persistence – outcome based*

With these principles in mind, individualized family plans are developed and reviewed regularly. The plans are dynamic, changing as family needs and circumstances change. Families are at the center of the planning process and all team members have responsibility for making the plan work.

The Wraparound Oversight Committee meets twice a month and has representatives from many child and family serving organizations as well as parent representation. This dedicated group has a commitment to creative, practical solutions for complex problems and carefully reviews Wraparound plans and budgets to help ensure consistent management of resources and quality for families.

Trumbull County strives to practice Wraparound with the highest fidelity, but those involved in the county's process realize it is a work in progress and continuous efforts are made to improve. With that goal in mind, the Trumbull County Wraparound Oversight Committee offers the following information.

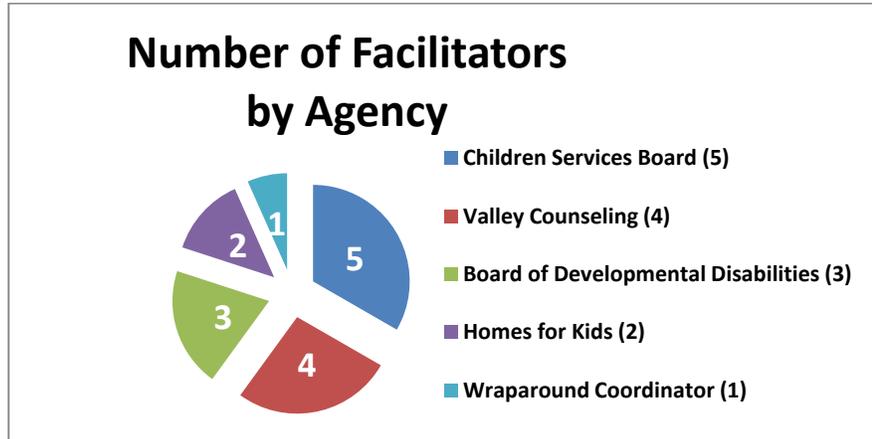
## **WHAT'S NEW?**

Since the last report, Trumbull County Wraparound has made some changes to help improve and streamline the process:

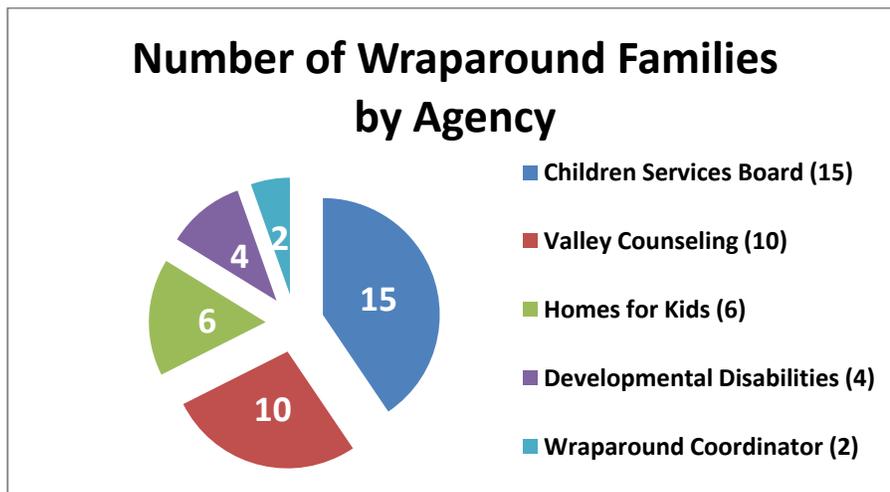
- The Wraparound Oversight Committee restructured its meetings and now has one clinical meeting and one business meeting each month.
- Trumbull County participated in the development of a training curriculum to be used by the Northeast Ohio Wraparound Collaborative.
- The Wraparound Coordinator trained ten additional facilitators using the new curriculum.
- The Wraparound Coordinator provided a one-day basic training to twenty-five members of the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- The first facilitators from drug and alcohol treatment agencies were trained.
- The Wraparound Coordinator began meeting with all new families to help them understand the process.
- Eligibility guidelines were revised.
- An emergency request procedure was developed.
- Memorandums of understanding were developed with residential providers.
- A process for parents to resolve concerns was developed.
- A new brochure was developed.
- The Oversight Committee began examining the cost of the county's Medicaid match for enrolled children.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Trumbull County relies on a unique system to provide Wraparound facilitation to enrolled families. There are trained facilitators in six partner agencies: Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Trumbull County Children Services Board, Valley Counseling, Homes for Kids, Community Solutions Association and Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic. These facilitators refer particularly challenging cases from their own agencies to the Wraparound Oversight Committee but provide Wraparound facilitation to many other families as well.



*The chart above reflects those facilitators who had active teams in fiscal year 2009.*



*The families represented in the chart above are those whose plans were presented to the Wraparound Oversight Committee for approval and funding.*

There were thirteen referrals in 2009, six from mental health agencies, one from the Board of Developmental Disabilities and six from Trumbull County Children Services Board.

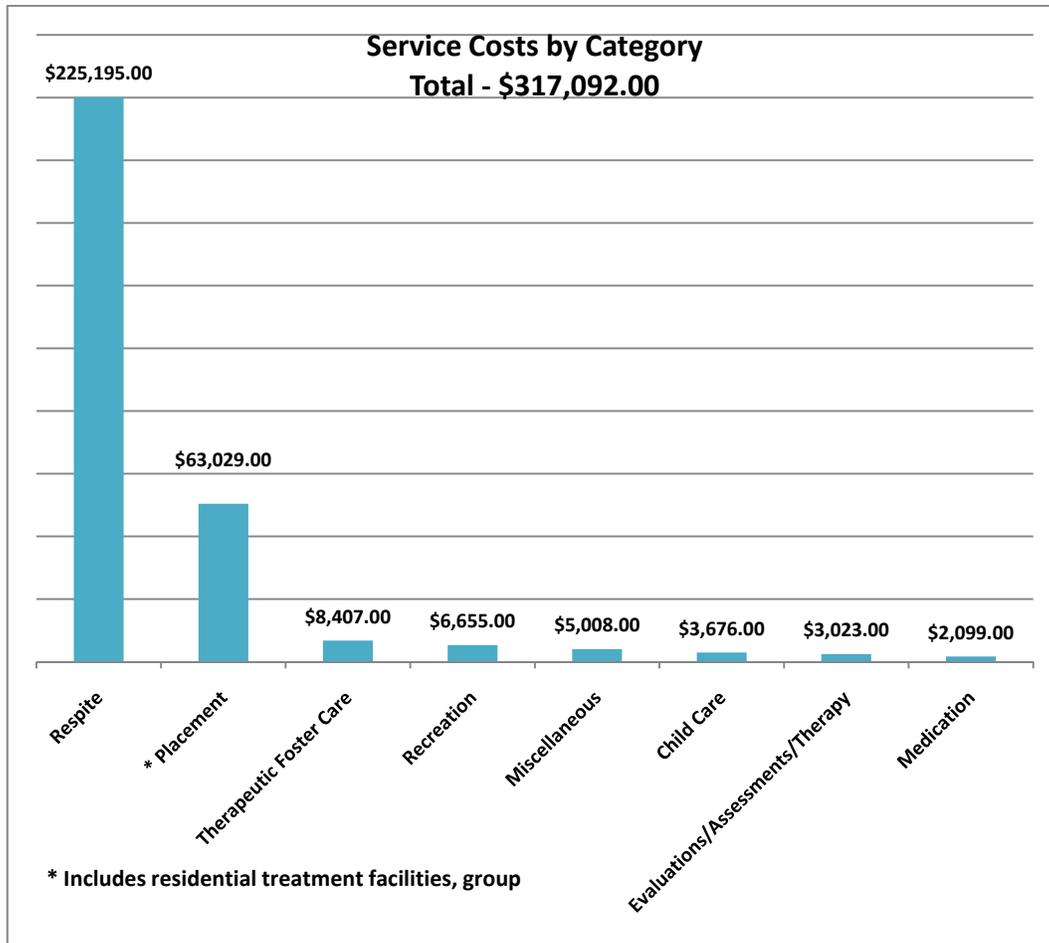
**FUNDING**

Trumbull County Family Wraparound is very fortunate to have the financial support of local organizations and the state of Ohio to support the financial needs of Wraparound plans. Local support comes from The Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board (formerly Trumbull LifeLines), Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Trumbull County Family Court, Trumbull County Children Services Board and Trumbull County Department of Job and Family Services. Their contributions are unrestricted and form a pool

of funds to support creative Wraparound plans. These funds are among Trumbull County Wraparound’s greatest assets and the success of participating families owes much to the continued support of these agencies.

In addition, the state of Ohio provides two allocations that support local efforts. The Family Centered Service and Support grant is awarded to the Family and Children First Council and the Children’s Community Behavioral Health grant is awarded to the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board which directs its use to Wraparound.

In fiscal year 2009, \$317,092.00 was spent on Wraparound plans developed by the thirty-seven Wraparound teams. These expenditures are summarized in the following chart.



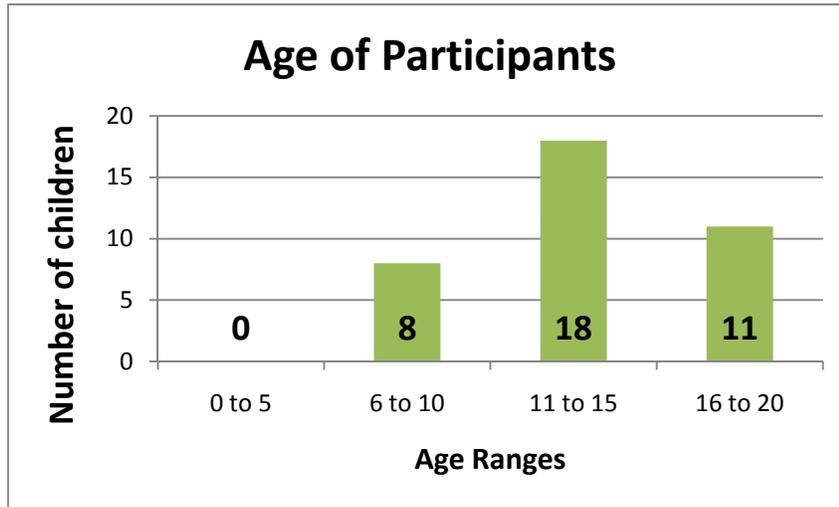
Respite for families struggling with the multiple, complex needs of their children accounted for the largest investment. The struggle to maintain children in their own homes is often made easier when parents have the opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy a much-needed break while children enjoy the chance to develop and practice social and life skills.

Recreational opportunities included participation in dance lessons, Tae Kwon Do and memberships at local YMCAs. Miscellaneous expenses included utility assistance, car repair and furniture for an independent living situation.

The average cost per family involved with Wraparound was \$8,220.14 and the mean cost was \$5,151.89 with a range of \$350.00 to \$42,363.00.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

During fiscal year 2009, thirty-seven children received services through the Family Wraparound Oversight Committee. Since siblings of the enrolled children were included in family plans, sixty-one children received the benefits of Wraparound. Twenty-nine were male and eight were female. There were Caucasian, African-American and biracial children in the group. The largest number of participants was between eleven and fifteen years of age.



All the children and youth enrolled in Wraparound during FY09 had mental health involvement. The following table reflects the diagnoses that were being treated by the primary behavioral health providers during the youths’ involvement with Wraparound. The numbers exceed the total number of youth served because most of the youth had multiple diagnoses.

Diagnosis	Number
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	20
Conduct Disorder	12
Bipolar Disorder	11
Pervasive Developmental Disorder, NOS	10
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	6
Adjustment Disorder	3
Reactive Attachment Disorder	3
Schizophrenia	3
Cannabis Use Disorder	2
Depressive Disorder	2
Impulse Control Disorder	2
Anxiety Disorder	1
Polysubstance Use Disorder	1

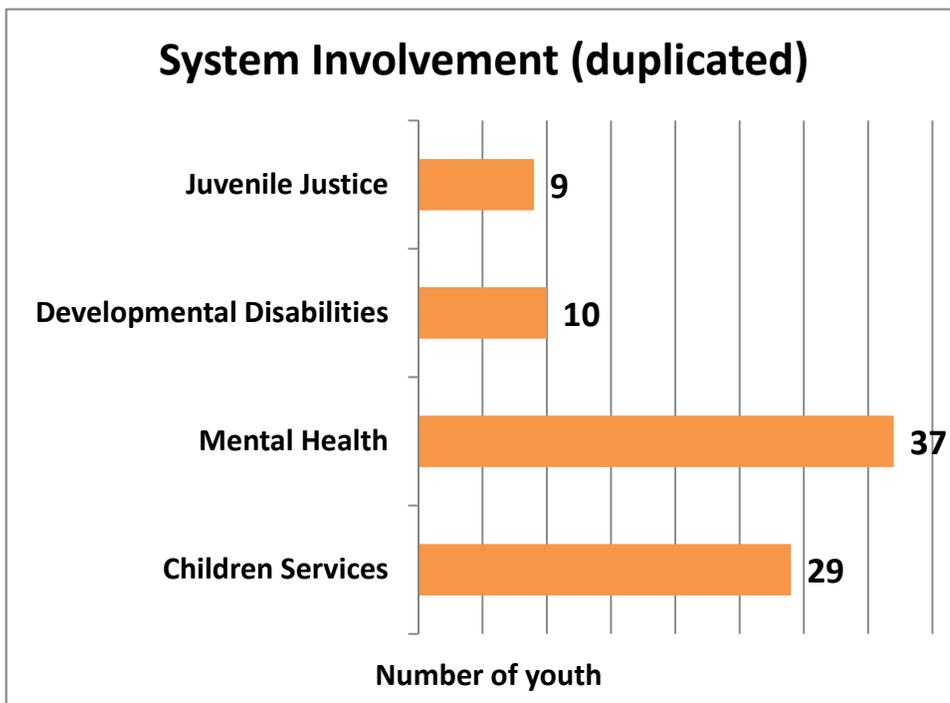
**WRAPAROUND TEAM DATA**

During fiscal year 2009, there were 388 team meetings with an average of 1.6 meetings per month per family. The average number of active teams per month was 21. The number of natural supports who participate on Wraparound teams is monitored because those persons can play such an important role in the success of the

process. In 2009, the average percentage of natural supports attending team meetings ranged between 14% and 45% among the four agencies and the Wraparound Coordinator.

## OUTCOMES

Families who enroll in the Wraparound process have children with a high risk of out-of-home placement due to a combination of issues that can include mental health diagnoses, behavior problems, developmental delays, child welfare concerns and juvenile justice involvement. Wraparound children have involvement with at least two systems and many have involvement with three or four. Wraparound is a beneficial process for dealing with so many systems and agencies because it brings everyone together to create a common plan. The Wraparound facilitation is usually provided by the system that has the most involvement with the child and family. The following chart illustrates the complex needs of these children.



Trumbull County's primary objective is to keep children in their own homes. When that is not possible, the goal is to maintain them in the least restrictive environments that keep them and others safe. When out-of-home placements are necessary, Wraparound teams attempt to make them as short as possible.

At the beginning of fiscal year 2009, there were ten children placed in residential facilities. Seven of these were at Trumbull County Children Services Board's residential campus, one was at Lincoln Place and three were at Belmont Pines Hospital. By the end of the same year, three of these youth were transitioned into less restrictive home environments; one returned home, one was able to live with a relative and the other moved into a supported living arrangement. A fourth young adult transitioned from a residential facility into an independent living home; but unfortunately, was later incarcerated.

At the beginning of 2009, there were four children in foster care (seven including siblings). By the end of the year, all seven of these children were transitioned into home environments: five were reunified with biological parents, one moved to an adoptive home and one moved into a relative's home. During the same period, one child moved from a relative home into foster care.

It is common for youth referred to Wraparound to have a history of psychiatric hospitalization. Teams strive to reduce the number of re-hospitalizations through effective interventions and safety planning. Of the thirteen youth referred in 2009, four had been hospitalized in the year prior to referral for a total of nine hospitalizations. Following referral, through the end of the fiscal year, only one of these youth was hospitalized for a total of one re-hospitalization.

There were eight graduations during 2009 and six case closures. Cases were closed because funding eligibility ended, families chose to end services, a client moved out of the county and another was incarcerated.

### **CASE EXAMPLES**

The following vignettes describe three families served in FY09. There are examples from child welfare, developmental disabilities and mental health. These cases were chosen because they are a good representation of the complexities involved in Wraparound, and highlight some of the accomplishments of the teams. Names and other identifying information have been changed to provide anonymity.

### **Case #1: Nicole, age 10 – Facilitated by Children Services Board**

Nicole is a ten-year-old girl who was recently reunited with her biological family. At the time of referral to the Wraparound Oversight Committee, Nicole and three of her siblings (ages 4, 6 and 8) were living in two separate foster homes. They had been removed from their biological parents two years prior for physical and alleged sexual abuse. Nicole and her sister were receiving counseling to help deal with past abuse. During the children's time in foster care, the parents worked on their case plan in preparation for the children's return home. In February of 2009, the timeline was nearing for permanent custody to be taken by Children Services Board. As a final effort to help with the reunification process, a Wraparound team was formed. The team worked to begin a visitation schedule in the home. Prior to this, all visits had occurred at Children Services. To help provide supervision and support, the Wraparound Oversight Committee approved funding for in-home respite and supervision during the home visits.

Over the next several months, visitations increased. The visits went very well, and over time the team decreased the respite, as the parents showed they were able to successfully manage the children. The team worked to support the family with other needs including a job loss, financial struggles, school issues and emotional/behavioral challenges. By the end of the fiscal year, all four children were fully reunified with their biological parents. The parents have exhibited realistic expectations for the children. They have provided a structured and loving home environment and the children are very happy to be back together and home with their parents.

### **Case #2: Kevin, age 18 – Facilitated by Board of Developmental Disabilities**

Kevin is an eighteen-year-old young man who resides with his mother and two sisters. Kevin has developmental disabilities and receives SSA services from the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Kevin is also diagnosed with several mental illnesses, including Bipolar Disorder. Kevin first became involved in Wraparound in May of 2007. At the time, Kevin was facing expulsion from school and had been hospitalized several times at Belmont Pines Hospital. He also had a history of sexual abuse – both as the victim and perpetrator. Due to the severities of behaviors exhibited at home, at school and in the community, there had been several professional recommendations for long-term residential treatment. At the time of referral, there was involvement from Developmental Disabilities, Homes for Kids, Children Services Board and the schools.

As a final attempt to keep Kevin at home, a community meeting was held and it was determined that the Board of Developmental Disabilities would facilitate a Wraparound team for the family. Initially, the plan focused on stabilizing Kevin and maintaining community safety. Kevin spent two weeks in a group home and when he transitioned back home, a large amount of respite services were provided in the home to help the mother provide structure and supervision. There were also environmental modifications made in the home, including alarms on the doors and windows and video monitoring. As the team progressed and Kevin's behavior started to stabilize, the team's focus shifted toward empowering the mother in her parenting. As the mother became stronger and better able to manage Kevin's behavior, his behavior also improved. Mother became proactive in working with the local police and area businesses to help address the problems of Kevin running away and stealing. Another key component was finding a constructive outlet for Kevin. After exploring several options, the team found that karate was a very positive activity for Kevin, and over time, his sister and mother became involved as well. This turned into a great family activity for the whole family to enjoy.

After much hard work and commitment from the team, Kevin was able to graduate from high school, a significant accomplishment for a young man who was facing expulsion just two years prior. He was motivated to find employment and the team helped to link him in with Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Coleman Professional Services. His involvement with the Family Wraparound Oversight Committee ended after his two

years of funding. By this time, Children Services Board had closed the case and paid respite had ended. Kevin continued to receive SSA services and individual counseling. While they no longer receive funding or oversight from the Wraparound Oversight Committee, the team continues to meet and address the family's needs.

### **Case #3: Bobby, age 12 – facilitated by Valley Counseling**

Bobby is a twelve-year-old boy who resides at home with his aunt and two brothers. Bobby has a history of behavioral and emotional problems and is placed in a specialized school setting to address his behavioral needs. Bobby and his two siblings have resided with their aunt, who has legal custody, for the past 8 years. Bobby's older brother was court ordered to sexual offender treatment and spent much of the past year in a residential treatment facility to address his offending issues.

During the time that Bobby's brother was in residential treatment, the team worked to help stabilize Bobby's behaviors in the home and link him with positive social outlets. One activity that was a good match for Bobby was Tae Kwon Do. Bobby demonstrated considerable success in the program and took on a leadership role with the younger children. The staff at the Tae Kwon Do facility were so committed to Bobby that they started a collection to provide a scholarship for him so he could continue with the program once his funding through Wraparound Oversight ended.

While the team has experienced many hurdles along the way – particularly once the older brother returned home, they have certainly demonstrated the Wraparound value of persistence in working to meet the needs of the family.

### **NEW IN 2010**

Trumbull County Wraparound is never satisfied and keeps trying to improve. There are always new challenges and opportunities. There are several planned changes in fiscal year 2010. These include:

- Use of a risk screen at enrollment and graduation.
- Monitoring Wraparound teams that do not come to Oversight Committee for funding.
- Greater emphasis on recruiting natural supports for Wraparound teams.
- Survey of family satisfaction.
- Survey of community stakeholders.
- Sending welcome letters to new Wraparound families with Council contact information.
- Booster training for facilitators.
- Parent advocate recruitment.

Perhaps the most important task will be addressing the issue of Wraparound capacity in Trumbull County. The current facilitators have full caseloads and the need for Wraparound never abates. The Family and Children First Council will explore options to continue to provide this valuable service to all families that need it.

It is a pleasure to work with the dedicated professionals who practice and support Trumbull County Wraparound. These include the Wraparound Oversight Committee members, the Wraparound facilitators and supervisors and the agency executives who lend their financial, philosophical and moral support.