

Oregon Children's Wraparound Initiative



News at a Glance

December 2008

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Governor submits Wraparound legislation

As pressure grows to do more with less, the Governor's Office has submitted legislation that will bring the major state child-serving agencies together to support children and families. Pressure from falling revenues, the need to reduce school drop-outs and close achievement gaps, and the desire to keep children safe from harm requires – now more than ever – that funding be blended to achieve more efficient and effective practice.

Educators, caseworkers, therapists, counselors, and others have asked, "Will all children be served; who will be missed?" The legislation is inclusive: the target population is children who have or who are at risk of developing emotional, behavioral or substance abuse related needs and who are involved with two or more systems.

So, what does this mean? There are no diagnostic exclusions; participating youth may have an Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, or no specific diagnosis at all. There is no language that says "for only the very neediest children." This is meant to assist in better prevention, early intervention and improvements for youth with serious mental health needs while avoiding duplication of services and minimizing the number of children and families who fail to be identified and who do not receive timely services.

The legislative proposal will give authority to child-serving state agencies to seek out federal waivers, blend funds, engage in workforce development and share training opportunities. Currently, small projects exist in Multnomah, Wasco-Hood River, Umatilla, Benton, and Lane Counties, but this legislation promises to bring the concept statewide. The most attractive feature is the promise of allowing the state and local communities to blend child welfare, school district, mental health, Commission on Children and Families, Oregon Youth Authority, juvenile justice and health insurance dollars to create an efficient, proactive, community based, and readily accessible service and support system for children and their families.

The legislative timeframe includes: legislation enacted in 2010, infrastructure framework completed by 2015, and the legislation sunsets in 2020. ✕

Contractor selected for Information Technology Assessment

The Statewide Children's Wraparound Initiative recently contracted with Virtual Information Executives (VIE) to conduct a written assessment of information systems used by the various child serving systems in Oregon and to identify and describe information systems and IT strategies being used in other "system of care" communities

that may be adapted to meet Oregon's needs. VIE is a group of business-oriented CIOs who have run IT operations for enterprises from global companies to startups, including non-profit enterprises. VIE provides world class executive IT consulting services to small and medium-sized enterprises. To find out more about VIE, go to www.viellc.com. ✕

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Education Group connects with Wraparound

Educators from around the state have come together to form the Education Work Group for the Statewide Children's Wraparound Initiative. The Group includes educators, parents, youth and stakeholders interested in system and funding changes for children who have behavioral health needs and who touch two or more service systems. The Oregon Education Association (OEA), the Conference of School Administrators (COSA), the Department of Education (ODE) and numerous educators and family members gathered in Salem on November 25th for the first of a series of meetings.

Representatives from several school districts, education service districts, Head Start centers, early childhood and higher education came together for two purposes:

- Identify and problem-solve wraparound implementation issues unique to education.
- Develop and implement a communications strategy about the Wraparound Initiative targeted to professionals at different levels within the education community.

The committee is co-chaired by Larry Sullivan, Director of Student Services for Eugene School District, and Shelley Joyce, Director of Policy for Oregon Family Support Network.

At the November 25th meeting, Dr. Nancy Latini, Deputy Superintendent of ODE, told the group, "In spite of troubled times, now is the right time to implement Wraparound."

For more information: contact Janice Gratton, Project Team Member, at jandsgratton@comcast.net

The most intriguing question discussed at the group's meeting was posed by Bill Bouscka from the Addictions and Mental Health Division, "what would you do in your local community if someone came with a suitcase full of money, previously delivered to you in lots of little bags, and asked, 'how do you want to spend it?'" X

Market Assessment making progress

Dr. Neal Wallace, researcher in charge of the Statewide Children's Wraparound Initiative, has completed a portion of his work for the market assessment, which includes initial estimates of age and poverty adjusted Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) prevalence rates for Oregon overall and by county.

The Assessment has two phases: phase one involves generating initial estimates of prevalence and utilization using "high level" national and state sources. Phase two involves "vetting" estimates with expert local sources (small county sample), making adjustments as necessary, and completing the report, which is due by June 2009. X

Family & Youth Committee

The Family & Youth Committee met for the first time December 13th. The Committee reviewed the family and youth movement, the state's policy regarding family-driven care, and the Medicaid finance system. This Committee will be developing a strategic plan for moving the Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN), a statewide family-run, youth-guided organization, into the Medicaid service delivery arena.

The youth on the Committee are forming a separate work group with local board members from Youth MOVE National, to plan for an Oregon Youth MOVE chapter. The youth work group will be meeting January 7 in Salem, and the full committee will be meeting again on January 10th.

Please contact Kris Anderson kris.anderson@ofsn.org if you have questions or information to share. X

If you would like to be updated on the progress of this initiative, please sign up for the Listserv at: <http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/lisinfo/staatewraparound>. Please visit the website at www.wraparoundoregon.org/statewide. Project Team Leader is Marcia Hille - you can reach her at: marcia.hille@periander.net X

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