

**Montgomery County**  
**NGA Meeting**  
**4.20.09**

“Super-Floaters”

- Scott (OMSAS\_MH and Substance Abuse)
- Mike (JJ at PCCD)
- Angelo (AOPC/PPI)
- Dana (PDE)
- Jodi (NGA, States)

**Team Members**

Eric Goldstein – Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health a/k/a MHMR

Laurie O’Connor – OCY

Steve Custer – JPO

Jim Anderson – JCJC

**Team Leader Overview of Plan/Major Drivers – Laurie O’Connor**

- Not approaching as just another initiative, focused on message and foundation of practice
- This is not separate initiative, integrated
- Strategies – PPI, NGA, NBPB
- OCY Specific Challenges
  - High number of pre-school age children being placed b/c parents are drug dependent
  - # of infants born drug-affected has increased – these type of youth often stay in placement much longer
    - Need to identify additional kin earlier on
    - Partner with MHMR to get services for these parents before the kids are placed – need good services for these parents (behavioral services) – need to figure out where gaps are
  - Lack of child psychologists/psychiatrists, who fills in gap while parents are waiting?
  - Need to involve families earlier and more often
  - Family Centers are good program – TLFRR, CAP
- Drivers for JPO
  - OCY and MHMR – when they do good, they improve our outcomes
  - Graduated sanction and preventative
- Brought on MST, FFSBS – Family Focused Solution Based Services (Teaming SCOH workers and mental health workers)
- Caretakers/Connections are Disengaged – “dropping off kids” – mostly adolescents (MHMR specific)
- Average length of stay is 13.7 months | 3-6 percent re-entry rate

- Drivers are focused on two age groups – young children (have handled young children issues well) and adolescents (need more help with adolescent population)
- Adolescents
  - More than 2 placements – happens all the time with adolescents
    - Lack of services/placements/programs that are available for adolescents

### **Any new strategies from this morning that could work?**

- Timelines help – Critical Intervention has helped in MHMR
- Evidence-based potential – Hi-Fidelity Wraparound
  - Very engaging team of professionals, youth, families
  - Has great potential
- School-wide Behavioral Support
  - School and MH provider form partnership – MH provides clinician, school provides counseling and youth – only 3 or 4 school systems have bought in but moving forward and hoping to replicate

### **Quick Wins/Low hanging fruit?**

- Prevent placement for older kids
  - MST, FFT, FFSBS, Hi-Fi (building array of older youth services)
    - There are a lot of services in place and additional ones being built – good foundation of services already available
  - Main reasons for placements – behaviors
  - FGDM implementation
  - Graduated Sanctions (JPO) helps with preventing placement – gives kids options not to be placed
  - ***Identify extended family/kin and involve family in shared case planning EARLY***
    - Family plans and families' needs should be clearly identified
    - Very close to having common assessment tool for children with behavioral health issues and OCY involvement
    - Need to identify services and focus on prevention
    - Use specialized foster care as approach
    - Put on different counties' websites and Montco. Main webpage
  - Alternatives to Detention – JPO
    - Do we have enough?
    - Concern about community safety issue – sometimes JPO outcomes are different than OCY outcomes
  - ***Need to reduce multiple placements and increase placement stability***
    - Identify the common triggers or behaviors that youth show or barriers to youth being moved
    - Look at MDTFC (multi-dimensional treatment foster care) screening tool

- Identify tool and implement it at time of intake to prevent placement
- ***Preventing placements in “stranger care”***
- Increasing connections between child serving systems and adult serving systems – stop disconnect between systems

### **Big Picture – what needs to happen to move it forward? Sustainability?**

- Begin looking for family and kin from the beginning
  - Quick win – take time to discuss in executive meeting and other leadership forums
- Provide foster parents and kinship care with additional resources
- Engage Faith-Based community
- ***This is part of our entire mission – this is our system of care***
  - Our goal is to create a cross-system continuum of care
- Specific Partners that are already engaged
  - Children’s Roundtable, Police Departments, School Districts, and a variety of other partners
  - Need family and youth voice at Children’s Roundtable
- Team review system has helped tremendously
- Truancy
  - Prevention is #1 solution
  - Strong level of commitment – everyone is on the same page
  - Refusal to pay for day treatment by MHMR and OCY – keeps kids in school
  - Working with IU to develop school-based program (pilot program)
- Youth Aid Panels have helped with diversion from JPO
- Teen Court
- OCY – brief services (early intervention)– informal visits to families in their own home to connect them with services in their community to meet their needs
  - Children’s Crisis Intervention Services (through MHMR)
    - Mobile emergency service – strong on prevention and diversion of hospitalization
    - Has driven down hospitalization rates
- MH Worker at Youth Center – helps reduce placements and improve services to youth

### **What specifically to do?**

- Keep momentum going – if can keep pre-school age kids at home that would mean an immediate 88 fewer kids in placement
- Set goal – 5 youth with MH issues to prevent placement
- Need ***more specific focus on prevention*** – speak to all staff – bring every type/level of placement down
  - Executive team
  - Laurie’s meeting

- Performance-based contracting
- County-wide collaborative board
- Getting it down to Supervisor/Case Management Level
  - Ongoing meeting with supervisors
  - Ongoing meeting with MCO case managers
  - Medical Director meeting with Docs
  - Put together 1 pager for all systems – focus on how this is not an initiative, this is how we are moving practice forward
  - Training from experts
  - Very family-driven and moving forward
- Need to identify new strategies for ungovernable youth
  - Strategy – have peer advisors speak to youth
- 3 Month Goals
  - Peer-to-peer advising and/or development of “warmline” for older youth
    - Use of Southeast Youth Advisory Board youth leaders
  - Faith Based outreach to Norristown Ministerial