



PAVING THE WAY HOME . . .

*Ten years of regional teamwork
to reduce and prevent the
Out-of-State Placement
of West Virginia's youth*



KidsCare Overview Report

September 1995-September 2005

*Developed January 2006 by Tamara R. Swinson
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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information-identifying goals achieved in Region II System of Care partners regarding out of state placed youth from September 1995-September 2005.

Method of Review

This report contains information from 894 case reviews that were assessed at KidsCare from January 1996 through September 2005. The information was collected through the monthly KidsCare case reviews, monthly reports, and collaboration with the Regional Department of Health and Human Resource (DHHR) administration. The report shows history, demographic information, number of youth placed out of state, number of youth discharged from out of state facilities, number of youth prevented from out of state placement, and average daily cost for out of state care.

History

The KidsCare Project was established in the fall of 1995 as a collaborative of agencies in the twelve county area of southwestern West Virginia known as Region II (Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, Roane and Wayne). This Collaborative formally became known as the KidsCare Assessment Team and began reviewing cases in January 1996. The goal of the team is to work together to return and prevent youth from placement into out-of- state facilities. The KidsCare Assessment Team continues to meet monthly and consists of representatives from the following child serving agencies: behavioral health providers, DHHR, psychiatric hospitals, juvenile services and families. The team is provided child specific information in which they review, assess and make recommendations which are then given to the worker/guardian regarding appropriate placement or discharge options that meet the needs of the youth.

In October 1999, the facilitation and coordination for the KidsCare Assessment Team became part of Mountain State Family Alliance (MSFA). MSFA is an initiative to develop integrated community based services and supports within the region, also known as a System of Care.

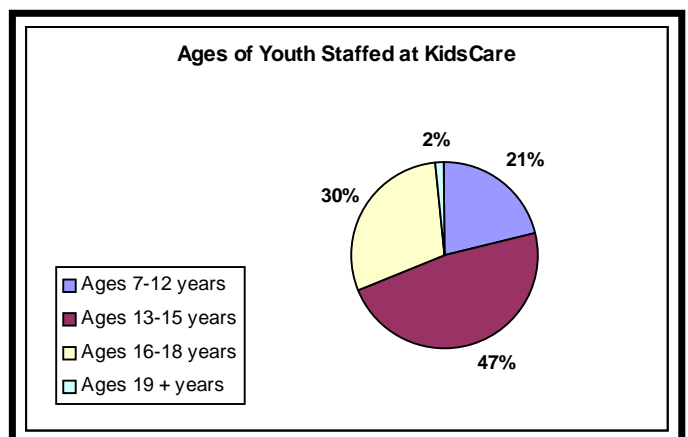
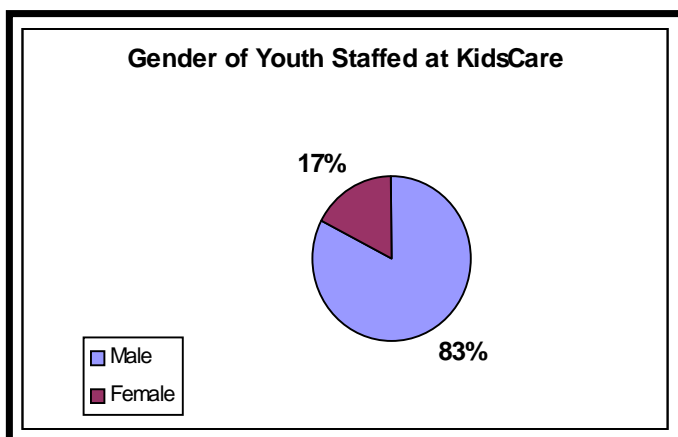
Demographics

Of the **894** cases staffed at KidsCare, **738** were male and **156** were female.

Youth staffed by age category:

- 191 youth staffed were 7-12 years
- 423 youth staffed were 13-15 years
- 266 youth staffed were 16-18 years
- 14 youth staffed were over age 19 years

Demographics of Youth Staffed at KidsCare 1995-2005



Five primary categories KidsCare uses to identify youth reviewed (although youth have been identified to be in specific categories, many of these youth are experiencing other behaviors that overlap within the categories below)

- Mental Retardation/Developmentally Disabled (MRDD) [youth who had an IQ lower than 70]
- Sex Offences (youth who may or may not be adjudicated)
- Mental Illness (Psychosis)
- Children Under 12 (may fit into one of the other three categories, but primary reason for placement was age)
- Conduct Behaviors (youth with treatment issues who have been adjudicated under the juvenile system)

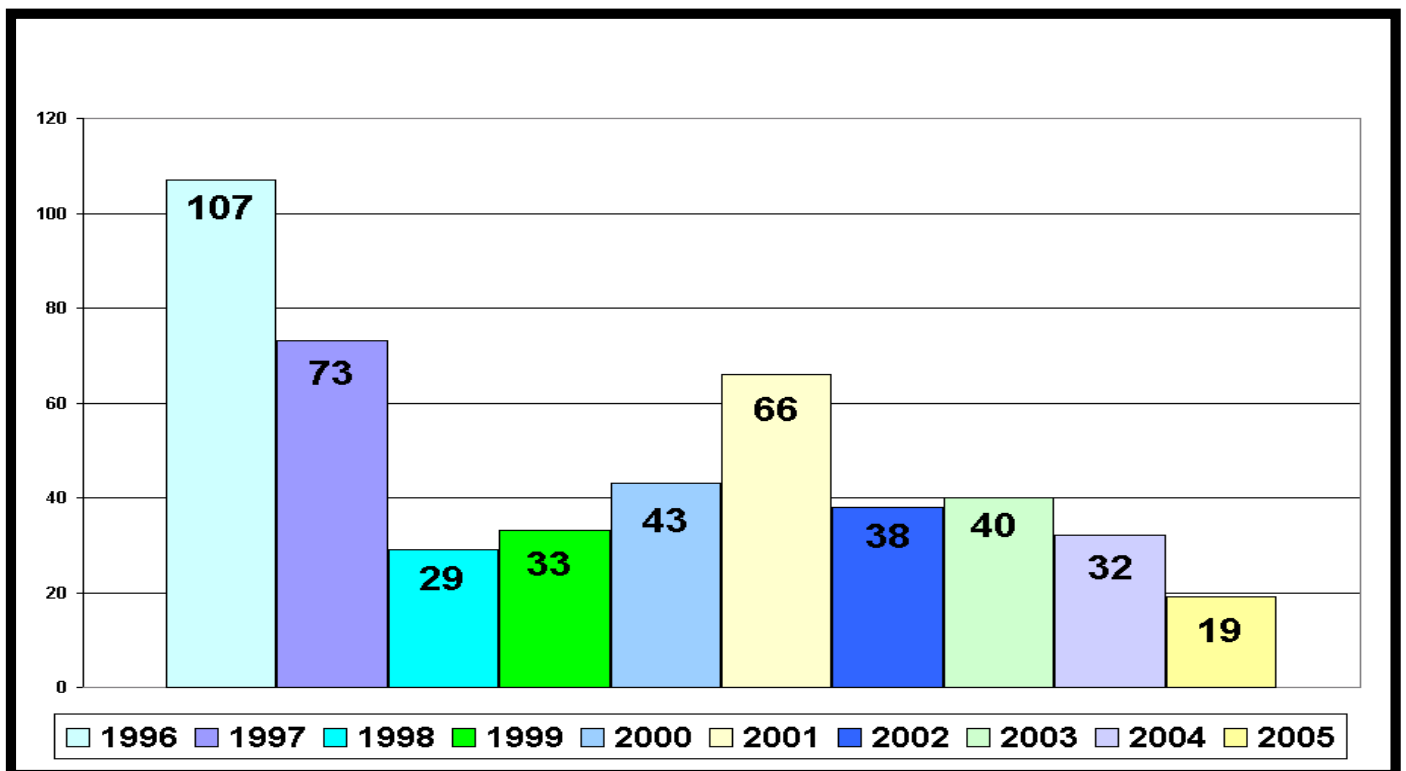
Trends (In the past ten years, KidsCare has been able to identify some similarities and changes in the overall data collection).

- An increase in youth placed out of state with a dual diagnosis of MR/DD
- Increase of youth identified as sex offenders or youth with sex offending behaviors
- Transition services for youth entering the adult behavior health system continues to be a challenge in discharge planning
- Decrease in out- of -state placement of youth with conduct behaviors

Placements (children placed in out-of-state facilities)

A total of 480 youth were placed in out-of-state facilities January 1996-September 2005.

Number of Youth Placed in Out of State Facilities 1996-2005

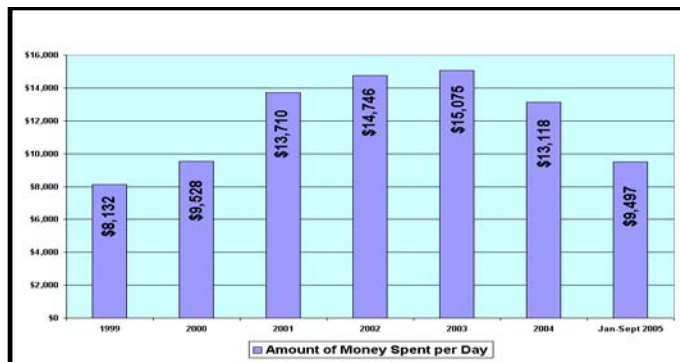


*Total Placed 1996-2005 = 480

Spending on Youth Place Out of State, 1999-2005

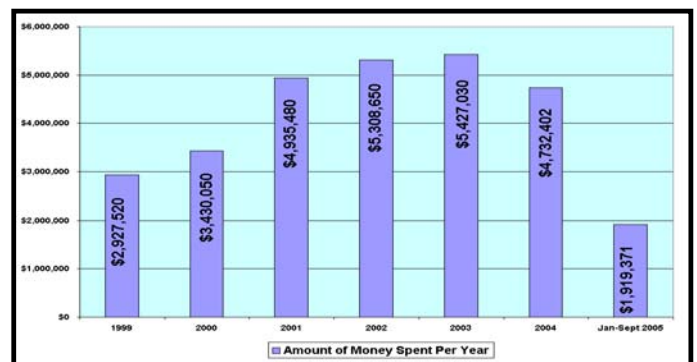
- The *average daily* cost for Region II on out-of-state placed youth January 1999- September 2005 in Region II was **\$11,972.00**
- The *average monthly* cost for Region II on out-of-state placed youth January 1999-September 2005 was **\$349,051.00**
- The *average annual* cost for Region II on out-of-state placed youth January 1999-September 2005 was **\$4,097,215.00**

Average Amount of Dollars Spent Daily on Youth Placed in Out-of-State Facilities



*An average daily cost of **\$11,972.00**

Average Amount of Dollars Spent Annually on Youth Placed in Out-of-State Facilities



*An average annual cost of **\$4,097,215.00**

Systems of Care Partners

- The numbers in 2005 demonstrate the lowest number of youth placed out of state within the past ten years.

Trends

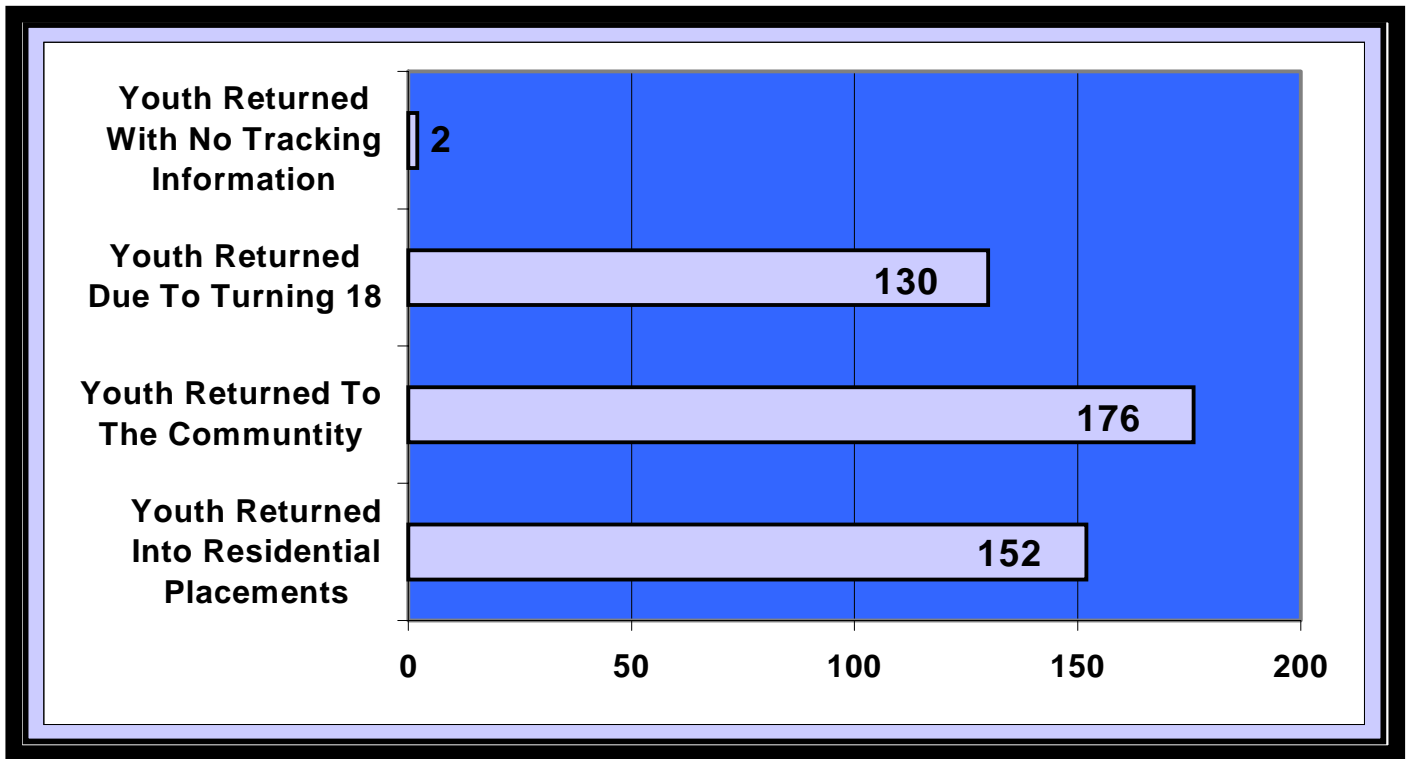
- Decrease in youth placed out of state, and an increase in youth prevented from out-of-state placement
- Increase in youth requiring psychiatric care out of state and a decrease in youth placed out of state for conduct disorder
- Reduction in the length of stay in out-of-state facilities

Discharges (youth discharged from an out-of-state facility)

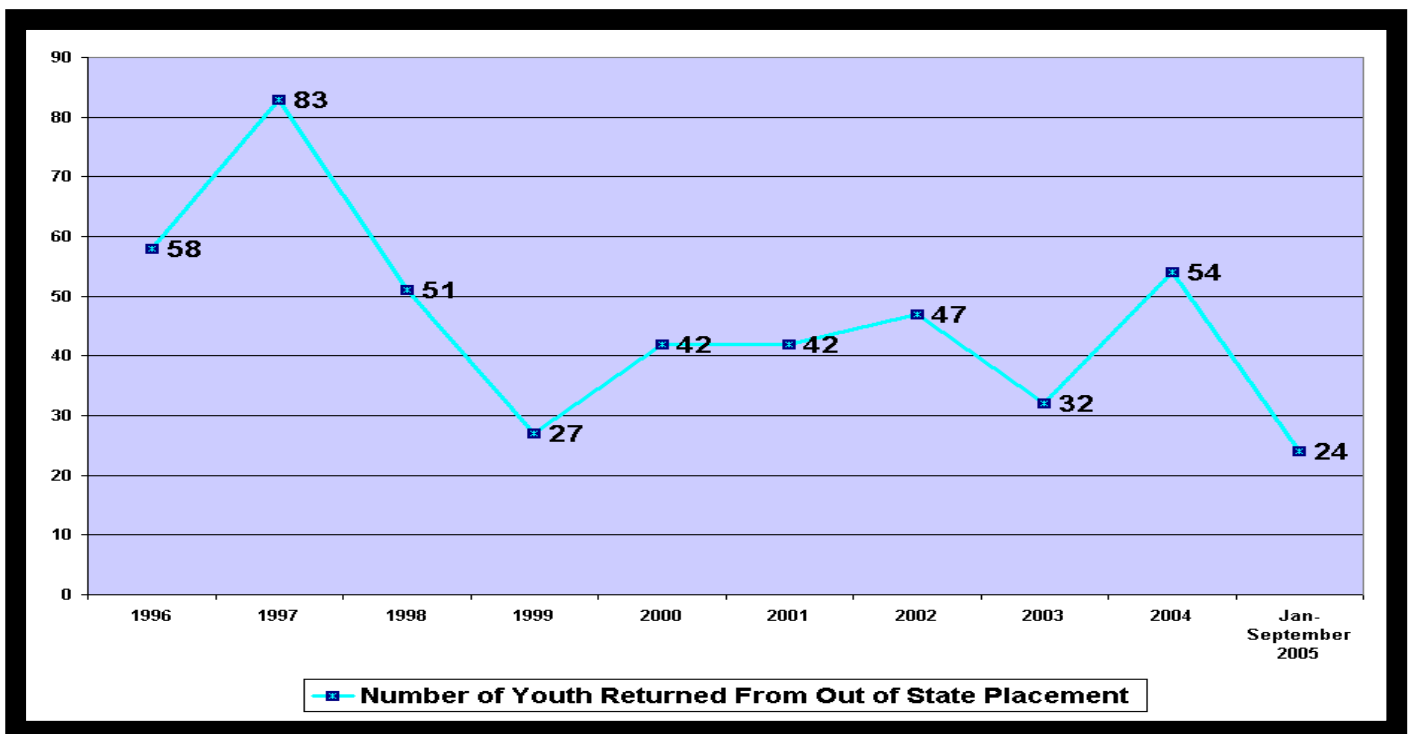
- 460 youth were returned from an out-of-state facility from January 1996 through September 2005
- [176] 38% of the youth returned to a community setting, such as their home, a relative's home, foster care or adoption
- [130] 28% of the youth returned due to aging out of the system
- [152] 33% of the youth returned to residential facilities, treatment centers, and/or step-down program
- [2] 1% of the youth returned had no tracking information. Placement unknown

* Source of information provided to KidsCare each month by DHHR and local providers

Placement after Returning From Out of State



Number of Youth Returned 1996-2005



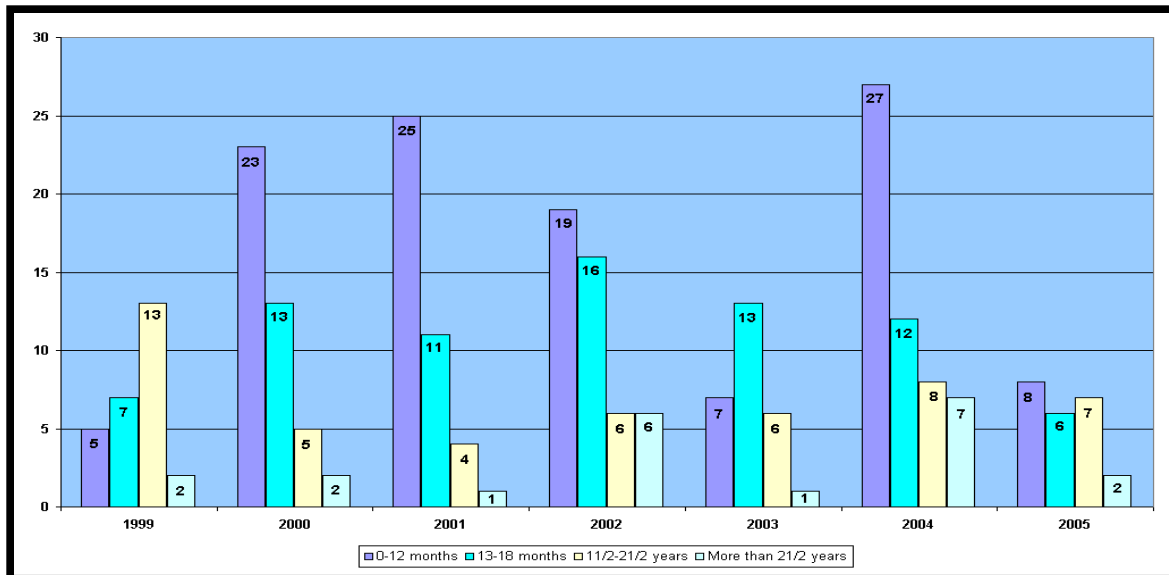
System of Care Partners

- The number of youth returned dramatically increased from 2003-2004. This occurred after MSFA Region II System of Care partners invested the federal dollars in services and supports that directly impacted this target population while enhancing community based services and supports for children at risk of out of home. It was the system partners who took the initiative to develop new services and expand on existing services to achieve this goal.

Trends

- Increase in youth returning to their community (foster care, adoption, parent or caretaker)
- Youth returning to their communities as adults
- A decrease in the amount of time youth were placed in out-of-state facilities

Length of Stay in Out of State Treatment Facilities 1999-2005



Preventions

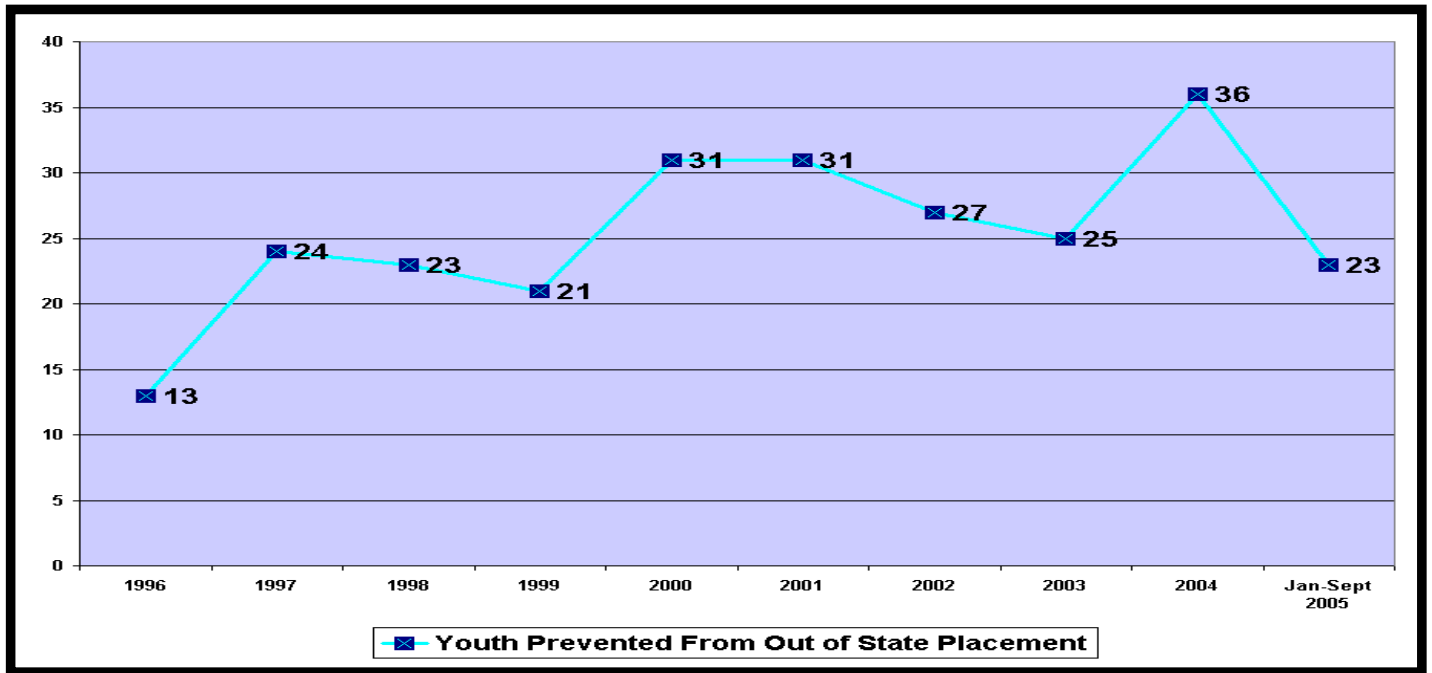
The partnership prevented a total of 369 youth from being placed out of state and out of home January 1996-September 2005

- 254 youth were prevented from out-of-state placement as reported through DHHR and KidsCare
- An additional 115 youth were prevented from out-of-home/out-of-state placement through the collaborative efforts of MSFA and the System of Care partners

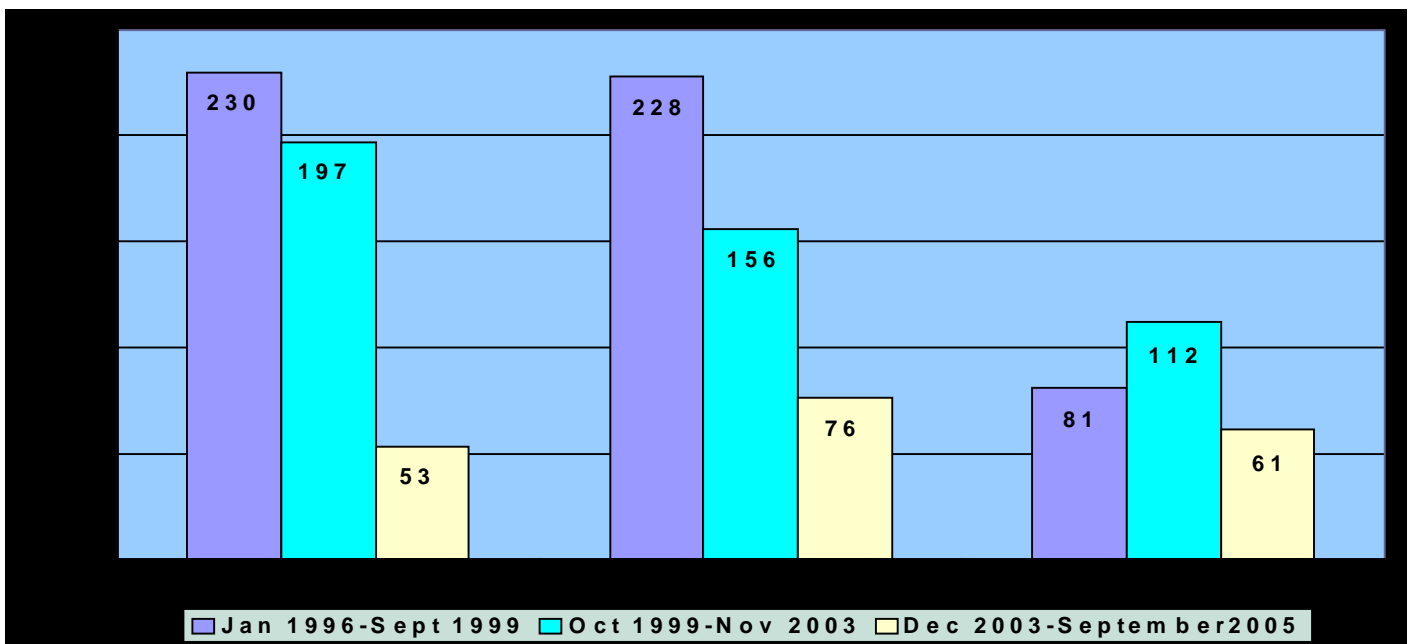
Systems of Care Partners

- The number of youth prevented from out-of-state treatment facilities has more than doubled since the inception of the grant in September 1999
- The only other year with preventions being higher was recorded in 2001. That total represents both the DHHR and the KidsCare data of preventions.

Youth Prevented From Out-of-State Placement 1996-2005



Youth Placed/Returned/Prevented From Out-of-State Placements January 1996-September 2005



Systems of Care Partners

- Approximately 230 youth were placed in out-of-state facilities to meet their treatment needs from January 1996-September 1999 (3 years, 8 months). This was an average of five (5) youth placed per month.
- Since Mountain State Family Alliance began in September 1999, 250 youth have been placed out of state from October 1999-September 2005 (5years, 10 months). This is an average of only three and one half (3½) youth placed per month.

Region II System of Care Partners Working Together to Return and Prevent Out-of-State Placements

Mountain State Family Alliance and Region II system partners have worked to develop a strategy to return and prevent youth from out of state placement. Through data collected from KidsCare and the local community collaborative teams, the partnership was able to identify service gaps and supports that were needed to address the needs of the youth at risk of out-of-state/out-of-home placement. In 2002, Region II invested additional federal funding in an effort to increase the community-based services to prevent youth from going out of state and to return from out of state facilities. Through the MSFA initiative, the federal dollars were used to develop community based services and supports to address this population of youth. The following are various services and supports that are used as resources for this targeted population:

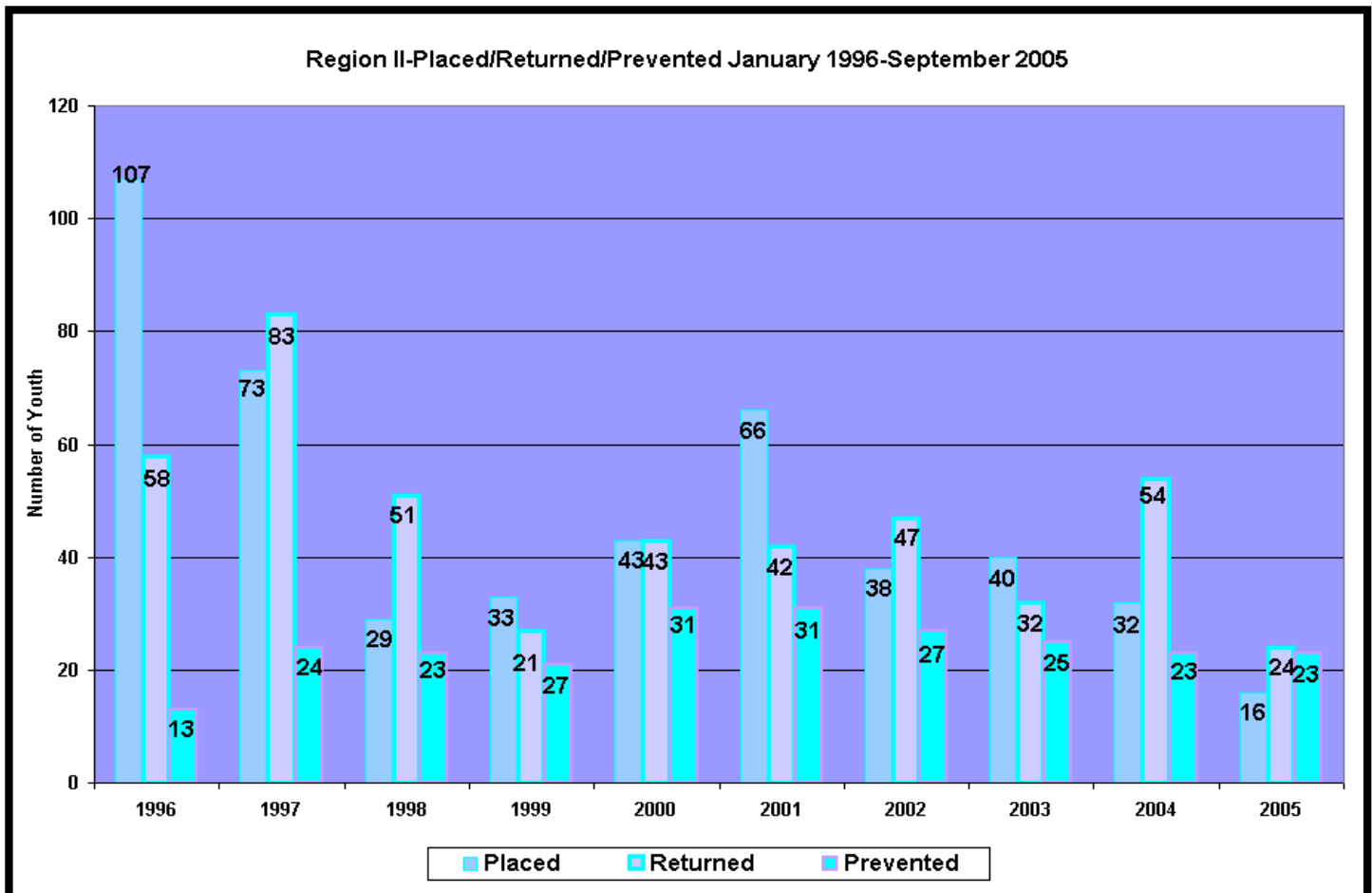
- In-home and center-based respite in each of the twelve counties in Region II, providing services to serve more families both in-community and in-home. (Primary partners include: Prester Center, Braley and Thompson, Inc., Children's Home Society and ABLE Families)
- Parent-to-parent support with education and information provided to families through parent liaisons in each collaborative area. Full time parent liaisons provide resources and support to families. (Primary partner: Mountain State Parent, Child, and Adolescent Network and Region II Family Network)
- Intensive care coordinators provide intensive in home services for youth with the highest risk of out-of-home placement (Primary partners include: Westbrook Health Services, Pressley Ridge, Braley and Thompson, Inc. and Prester Center)
- Non-traditional mental health supportive services are service interventions that provide the child/family options to achieve the goals outlined in the treatment/service plan, such as mentoring, therapeutic recreational activities, transportation, etc. (Primary funding: Mountain State Family Alliance). In the last two years, the Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) developed and expanded these services to serve Child Protective Services (CPS) and Youth Services. This is known as Socially Necessary Services.
- Stepping Stones, Inc. developed "The Next Step Program". Next Step is a "residential without walls" that keeps families in tact by providing intensive prevention services as deterrence to out-of-home care and to reduce the amount of time spent in out-of-home care.
- MSFA funded two projects to return approximately 32 youth from out-of-state placement. The funding was allocated to the Alliance for Children, Inc. (Bringing Kids Back Project) and to Stepping Stones, Inc. (Community Based Team –CBT- Project). Each agency partnered with additional agencies to assist in the development of a comprehensive assessment and discharge plan for each youth (April 2003-August 2004). The CBT project is currently being continued and funded through BCF as an alternative for children at risk of out-of-state/out-of-home placement to remain in the community.
- The Alliance for Children, Inc., and local foster care providers conducted a foster parent recruitment campaign in all 12 counties of Region II. This effort increased community based services for youth who needed to receive family care.
- Braley and Thompson, Inc. along with other foster care providers developed a Parent Skills Training curriculum and are providing ongoing training workshops to parents and caretakers to better serve children within their home setting.
- Kanawha Valley Center (KVC) recruited 10 foster families that would increase their ability to serve youth at risk of out-of-state placement through skills training and agency support. This program is known as Home-based Alternative Treatment Program (HALT). KVC partnered with Region II provider agencies to provide specialized training

and technical assistance for children with serious emotional disorders combined with special needs between the ages of 8-12 to divert out of state placement.

- River Park Hospital and Braley & Thompson, Inc. partnered with MSFA to sponsor four two-day training workshops for professionals and families who provide services to or care for children and adolescents that would otherwise have to leave their home or state for services. Presentations were given by nationally recognized experts in the fields of reactive attachment disorder, adolescent sex offenders, dual diagnosis, substance abuse, mental illness and advanced “wraparound” facilitation.
- The Department of Education, Office of Special Education and MSFA continue work together to integrate the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process to assist children returning from out-of-state placement, and help their families and local school personal identify the level of supports needed to safely transition a child back into the community and school.
- The Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and MSFA continue to work together with local agencies to provide comprehensive community-based services for youth with co-occurring disorders. This program is known as the Substance Abuse Wrap Team, and serves Putnam, Logan and Mingo Counties in Region II.

*** Referenced from MSFA “Keeping Children in their Communities by Building Stronger Families

A Look at Where We Were Then and Where We Are Now



Narrative

In August 2005, Region II experienced the lowest number of youth placed out of state in the past ten years. Through the collaborative efforts of Region II and the System of Care initiative, there is a reduction of youth being placed in out-of-state facilities and an increase of youth returning from out-of-state facilities. The collaboration of Region II Systems of Care has also shown an increase in preventions of youth placed in out-of-state facilities, thus giving Region II youth an opportunity to be closer to their families and allowing families to stay actively involved with their children.

Although Region II has made substantial improvements over the past ten years regarding youth placed, returned or prevented from out-of-state facilities, there is much work to be completed. Region II partners will continue to identify the needs and services of youth at risk of out-of-state/out-of-home placements to assist in maintaining youth in the community. The goal is to reduce the out-of-state numbers to a minimum.

Region II System of Care partnerships continue to assist and support the region in decreasing the number of youth placed out of state by combined efforts to provide services for those hard to place youth. These efforts include ongoing planning to address service needs and gaps in delivery. Let us not forget that the largest and greatest force of all is the family. Families uniting and learning to advocate for their children has also left a positive note in the community. The decrease in out-of-state placements has caused an increase in preventions of both out-of-state and out-of-home placements.

In summary: “I would like to thank the Department of Human Resources (DHHR) and all of the System of Care Partners for the efforts made in Region II toward the success that KidsCare has experienced over the last ten years. It is obvious that through the collaboration and coordination within Region II, children and families are a priority”.

KIDSCARE PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Alliance for Children
Braley & Thompson, Inc.
Cammack Children's Center
Children's Home Society
Damous Psychological Services
Family Service of Kanawha Valley
Golden Girl, Inc.
Goodwill Family Services
Highland Hospital
KVC, Inc.
Marshall University
NECCO
Pressley Ridge
Prestera Center for Mental Health Services
Region 2 Children's Summit & Community Collaborative Teams
Region 2 Family Network
River Park Hospital
Stepping Stones, Inc.
Westbrook Health Services
WV Youth Advocate Program
WV-DHHR Office of Behavioral Health Services
WV-DHHR Bureau for Children & Families
WV Division of Juvenile Services
WV Department of Education—Office of Special Education

KidsCare Assessment Team

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