



# LINKING HANDS

Issue 14

Winter 2006

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- *Presenting Regional System of Care Workforce*
- *KVC pilots successful Home-Based initiative*
- *Substance Abuse "Wrap Teams" showing results*
- *"Family Centered Practice" yields agency benefits*
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As of April 2005:

1,080 youth enrolled in MSFA System of Care



# Addressing the growing needs of youth with mental health & substance issues

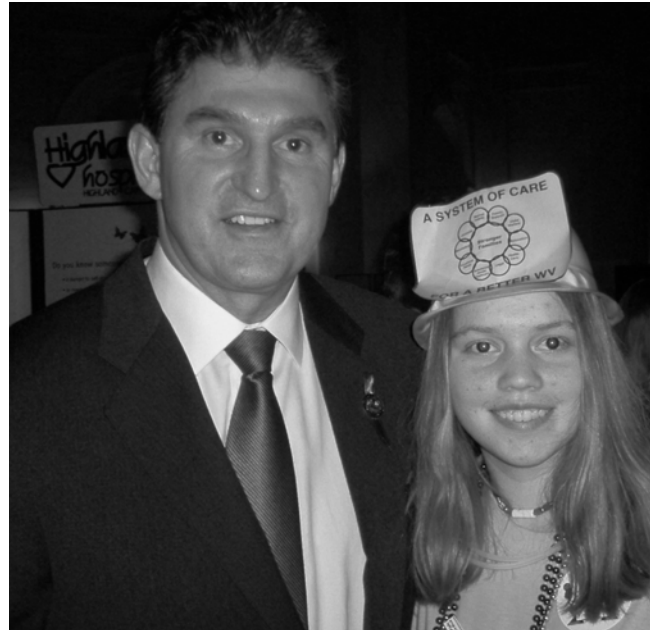
*(need additional info to edit together-JR)*

Through a continued partnership with the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Mountain State Family Alliance, Pretera Center for Mental Health Services, and Pressley Ridge continue to work together to provide community based treatment services and supports to youth with substance abuse and mental health issues. The Substance Abuse Wrap teams that provide the services and supports are working with community providers, judicial systems, and social services. Many of youth are in trouble, at risk of out of home placement, having problems at school, and are involved in the judicial system or at risk of involvement. These intensive in-home services provide an opportunity for the youth and their family to receive treatment services, community supports, learn skills that will assist in making right choices, and assist parents/caretakers to learn more about drugs use and abuse and how they can provide support during and after the treatment process. In our first annual report the following outcomes were reported:

(Need info from Linda)

Parent: " This is a really great program to go through. She (her daughter) has calmed down a lot with her anger. She talks to the team more than she has any other workers. It is amazing how much she has changed. She doesn't even need her Zoloft any more."

Child: "Since the program I stopped using drugs, and I don't have a bad temper any more."



"I caught the Governor coming into the Capitol and asked if I could have my picture taken with him." - Elizabeth

## Regional Teen becomes State Youth Advocate

*Dñy`adsg Enqc ne B`adkk Bn tmsx hr mns `eq`hc sn `rj enq vg`s rgd mddcr- Sgd 07,xd`q,nkc Rxsrd l ne B`qd=jq`c t`sd|| hr` Vdrs Uhgffmh` xn tsg qdoqdrdms`shud sn sgd m`shrm`k Edcdq`shrm ne E`lhkdr bnmcdqdmbr`r vdkk`r` l d l adq ne sgd Rs`sd Cdualkno ldms`k Chr`alhhshdr Bn tmbhk`mc sgd Xn tsg@cuhrnqx Bn tmbhk ne Ln tms`hm Rs`sd O`qdms Bghkc % @cnkdrbchms Mds vnqj- Gdqdr hr Dñy`adsg hm gdq nvm vnqcr9*

I got involved to learn more about people like my brother Chuck.

The things I enjoyed most these trainings I've got to participate are I've learned new things that could probably help me with what I want to do when I grow up, which is work with kids with disabilities.

The other thing I enjoyed most about all these trainings is I've met a lot of new people.

These experiences changed me. I met a lot of new people. I became the youth representative for the Youth Leadership Academy

The number one reason I think I got started in all of this is because of my brother Chuck. My brother has been in and out of residential facilities all his life, which some were in state and most were out of state. In some of these facilities he has been mistreated and I think nobody should have to go through what he went through. He is now in (a community treatment program) in Huntington and I think he is doing better.

# *MSFA's System of Care—* The team of people in



**Mountain State Family Alliance Regional Staff:** (clockwise from left) Tammy Pearson, Rhonda McCormick, Jeanette Rowsey, Dreama Frye, Cindy Bryant, Lisa Lynch, Amy Elswick, Tamara Swinson, Robin Hughes, Linda Watts (with baby Tristan), Sandra Pettaway. Not Pictured: Laurel Haught



**Respite Team Leaders:** (from left) Rebecca Cremeans, Angela Teitsworth, Tammy Mills, Lori Ferguson, Julie Harris. Not Pictured: Abasi Key.

## ***Faces of a 21st-century Workforce—***

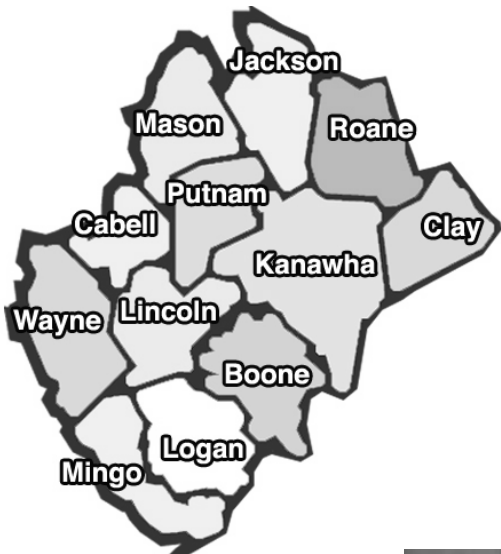
*One or more of these faces may be familiar, but the jobs they do represent the changing face of care for children who traditionally had to leave their communities to get adequate behavioral health care...*

*Regional Coordinating Staff...Children's Respite Team... Intensive Care Coordinators...Parent Liaisons... Family Evaluators...*

*These jobs are about CHANGE... Changing the way that families who have children with serious emotional disturbance learn about and receive services...*

*Changing the way that schools, and juvenile courts, and child welfare programs and mental health agencies work together, in concert with children and their families, to ensure that there is no "wrong door" through which they may pass in order to receive needed services.*

# your neighborhood...

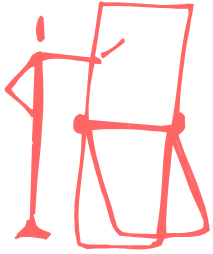


**Intensive Care Coordinators:** (Shown at recent training session, clockwise from upper left) Theresa Shepard—Wayne County, Chessie Short—Lincoln County, Carol Balsler—Jackson County, Deborah Wilson—Putnam County, Meredith Crawford—Cabell County. Not pictured: Ryan Greenlee, Andrea Hall, Stacey Reed.



...helping children and families live, learn & thrive in their neighborhoods

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



*Designed to increase competency of families and professionals who serve children with emotional or behavioral disorders. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JEANETTE ROWSEY AT MOUNTAIN STATE FAMILY ALLIANCE AT 399-0126, extension 101.*

### **FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE (6 HRS)**

**Wednesday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** Pea Ridge United Methodist Church (Huntington). Contact Cabell FRN at 697-0255 to register. *Social Work CEU's available.*

## **CABELL-WAYNE STUDY SHOWS GREATER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION & EMPOWERMENT WHEN AGENCIES TRAIN IN FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE**

Six human service agencies in Cabell and Wayne counties — Huntington Housing Authority, Information & Referral, Link Child Care Resource & Referral, TEAM for West Virginia Children, and both the Cabell and Wayne Districts of the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources have been recognized as “Family Centered Star Service Providers.”

“These agencies have made a commitment to provide effective services in a manner that empowers and enhances the skills of each family and individual served, and honors the strengths, culture & values of each person,” according to the Cabell-Wayne START-UP Team (which stands for Services To Achieve Results Together Utilizing Partnerships).

Efforts of the star service providers included having all employees trained in Family Centered Practices, participating in a consumer survey process in 2002 and 2005, and demonstrating how family centered principles have been put into practice toward better individual and family outcomes.

Dr. Christopher LeGrow of Marshall University’s Psychology Department, along with students in his industrial psychology program designed and administered the survey, in conjunction with the Family Resource Network’s

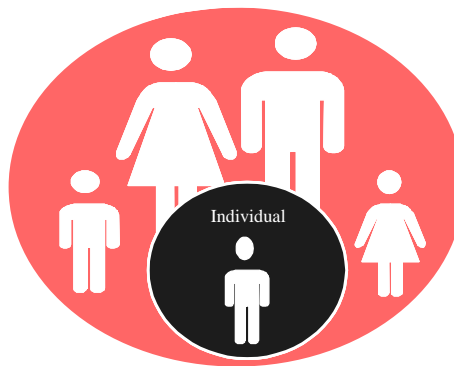
START-UP Team.

Cabell and Wayne county residents who receive services at the recognized agencies responded to questionnaires to measure the quality of services they received. The comparison of results between 2003 and 2005 demonstrated that agencies whose employees participated in family centered practice training showed significant improvement in their consumer ratings.

Dr. LeGrow and students Jason Clay, Phillip Bryant, Robyn East, Michael Lowe, Jason Miller, Erin Thompson and Jason Weaver were honored for their work on the follow-up surveys and analysis of the Family Centered Practice training course. Former MU graduate students Kellee Boster, Kevan Mock and Chandra Wood

helped design the survey instrument with Dr. LeGrow and administered the initial surveys in 2003.

The START-UP Planning Team consists of Jeanette Rowsey of MSFA, Angie Whitley of TEAM for WV Children, Francie Roberts-Buchanan of Information & Referral, Debbie Bowyer of Cabell County Family Resource Network and Robin Hughes of the Region 2 Family Network. The Wellspring Center of Mission West Virginia provided a mini-grant to the CCFRN to support an agency recognition luncheon for the Family Centered agencies.



## **Home Based Alternative Treatment Program 'HALTS' out-of-state placement through regional foster care pilot**

In 2003, KVC Behavioral Health Services began preparing experienced foster families to serve youth at risk of out-of-state placement. KVC partnered with Mountain State Family Alliance and other provider agencies to provide specialized training, intensive individualized services and family support for those children with serious emotional disorders combined with special needs.

This innovative West Virginia program, known as the Home-based Alternative Treatment Program (HALT), seeks to divert children and youth from out-of-state placement. Before 2003, "training of the biological family and foster family was a missing link in the treatment of our youth," KVC stated in its proposal for the HALT program. It was hoped that HALT would provide data for support of specialized treatment within the state as an alternative to treatment out of state.

The target population for the HALT initiative includes children and teens with behavioral problems that often make it difficult to retain stable family placements. These problems may include mental impairment with behavioral problems, abuse reactive symptoms with additional mental health diagnosis, conduct disorders or aggressive outbursts.

KVC trained ten foster families for the HALT program. Currently, five foster families provide HALT homes. The foster families and staff received Family Centered Practice and a number of other specialized training and assistance to understand diagnostic issues and therapeutic skills. Communication among team members has been vital, with pre-placement, one-week, 30-day and 90-day MDT meetings for every HALT referral.

As with most innovative programs in the System of Care, HALT took time to implement. After making staffing adjustments, educating providers, recruiting experienced families, and meeting the challenges of providing intensive training to both staff and families, placements took place in conjunction with the Region 2 Kids Care process.

KVC has placed six youth with HALT homes, one more than the proposed goal of five children for the pilot program. Two of the youth had returned from previous out-of-state placement, and four were at risk of leaving West Virginia for treatment.

Five of the youth were able to be maintained for more than six months. By nine months, not one required re-hospitalization. Five of the young people were able to increase their academic performance, evidenced by making the Honor Roll, within six months of placement.

Kim Meddings of Wayne County can attest to the strides made by two boys she has care for through the HALT program, Carl and Justin.

"Both made wonderful and exceptional progress. Justin (who is currently still with the Meddings family) has worked through a lot of problems, and is probably the best child I have (of six of Kim's children, both foster and biological). It's taken about a year to get him there."

I think the HALT program is really great – there is no way Carl could have been kept in a regular home before we got him. Without it he would have been out of state."