

Child & Adolescent Mental Health

Helping children with critical mental health needs:

- The three most common types clinical diagnoses seen upon enrollment in MSFA were Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (51.3%), Mood Disorders/Depression (36.6%) and Oppositional Defiant Disorders (33%). 67% of enrolled children had more than one diagnosis.
- 85% of children in the Mountain State Family Alliance showed severe to extreme functional impairment at enrollment.
- Nine percent—52 enrolled children as of June 2004—were reported as having made a suicide attempt at some time in their life.
- Fourteen percent had a history of substance abuse.
- Children in the WV System of Care have a higher incidence of mental illness in the biological family (67.1%) than is reported nationally (59.7%).
- 93.5% receive psychiatric medication, compared to 74% nationally.
- 39.2% of Children in the WV System of Care had a history of psychiatric hospitalizations, higher than the national norm of 36%.

Effective Systems of Care help to stabilize & improve children's behaviors & emotions:

- 89.7% of the children in the MSFA outcome study reported stable or improved behavior and emotional changes after 6 months.
- 90% reported stabilized or improved behaviors and emotions after 1 year.

The regional System of Care has successfully kept children at home with their families:

Of children followed in the WV System of Care outcome study, service use after one year showed the following trends:

- By the second 6 months in the system of care, the percentage of children placed in psychiatric hospitalization went from 6.5% to zero
- By the second 6 months in the system of care, the percentage of children placed in residential treatment went from 3.2% to zero.
- After a year, 96% of children in MSFA remained in their parents' custody while receiving services in the community.

What West Virginia Families have to say:

"My son has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Bipolar Disorder and an acquired brain injury. Our family has received services from the Children's Respite Program, Parent Liaisons and wraparound services. The services my son receives through MSFA have helped him to stay in school, function better at home and in the community, remain out of state's custody, and help both of us cope with everyday stresses."

- Boone County mom

President's New Freedom Initiative recommendations are closely aligned with Systems of Care

As President Bush's New Freedom Commission presented its recommendations in 2003, a remarkable alignment between Systems of Care and New Freedom goals soon became evident. The movement toward evidence-based practice converges well with a system of care approach.

- Systems of care focus on improving access, developing a broad array of services and ensuring coordination, all key goal areas of the New Freedom Initiative.
- Since 1999, MSFA's family & professional partnership has increased the quality and capacity of community-based services for children and adolescents in southwestern WV—including Respite, intensive case management, parent-to-parent information & support, and a large variety of non-traditional supports and services.
- MSFA has sponsored training for hundreds of mental and behavioral health professionals in diagnostic issues of children & adolescents, family-centered practice, strength-based "Wraparound" service planning, community resources, cultural competence and a variety of other critical issues and evidence-based practices.

A comprehensive System of Care provides the context for evidence-based practices.

The Mountain State Family Alliance partnership and providers of community services include: WV-DHHR Office of Behavioral Health Services, IWV-DHHR Bureau for Children & Families, IWV Division of Juvenile Services, IWV Department of Education—Office of Special Education, IRegion 2 Family Network, I Marshall University—Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine/Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, IRegion 2 Children's Summit, IGovernor's Cabinet on Children & Families, ICounty Family Resource Networks, IRiver Park Hospital, IBraleay & Thompson, Inc., IPrestera Center for Mental Health Services, IWestbrook Health Services, IAlliance for Children, IWV Youth Advocate Program, IChildren's Home Society, IKVC, Inc., IStepping Stones, Inc. I Pressley Ridge I Golden Girl, Inc. I Cammack Children's Center I Additional private service providers & faith-based groups

940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 335, Huntington, WV 25701 (304) 399-0126 Fax (304) 399-0130 www.orgsites.com/wv/msfa

