



Why Wraparound?

Wraparound is an approach with demonstrated effectiveness for children and youth with complex behavioral health challenges. It is a planning and support process where a team develops and implements an individualized plan of care. A team is chosen by the family and can include any person who is important to that family. Team members could include school personnel, neighbors, clubs/activities and/or community agencies such as mental health nor National Alliance on Mental Health advocates. Families often feel that their voices are drowned out when multiple agencies are involved and wrap works to make sure that the process is family driven: from location to team members and meeting times, the family guides the whole process in a way the empowers them to use their own strengths.

The Milwaukee Model is the national curriculum for our wrap practice through the System of Care (SoC) grant. Some of the core components for this model are youth driven, family guided, strength based, and culturally and linguistically competent. The others are highlighted in the image on the right.

The wrap coordinator follows a comprehensive process working with each family in a way that makes the most sense for them. The coordinator helps to facilitate time with the family that will draw out their narrative, functional family strengths, needs and family vision.

Core Components of New Hampshire's Wraparound Model



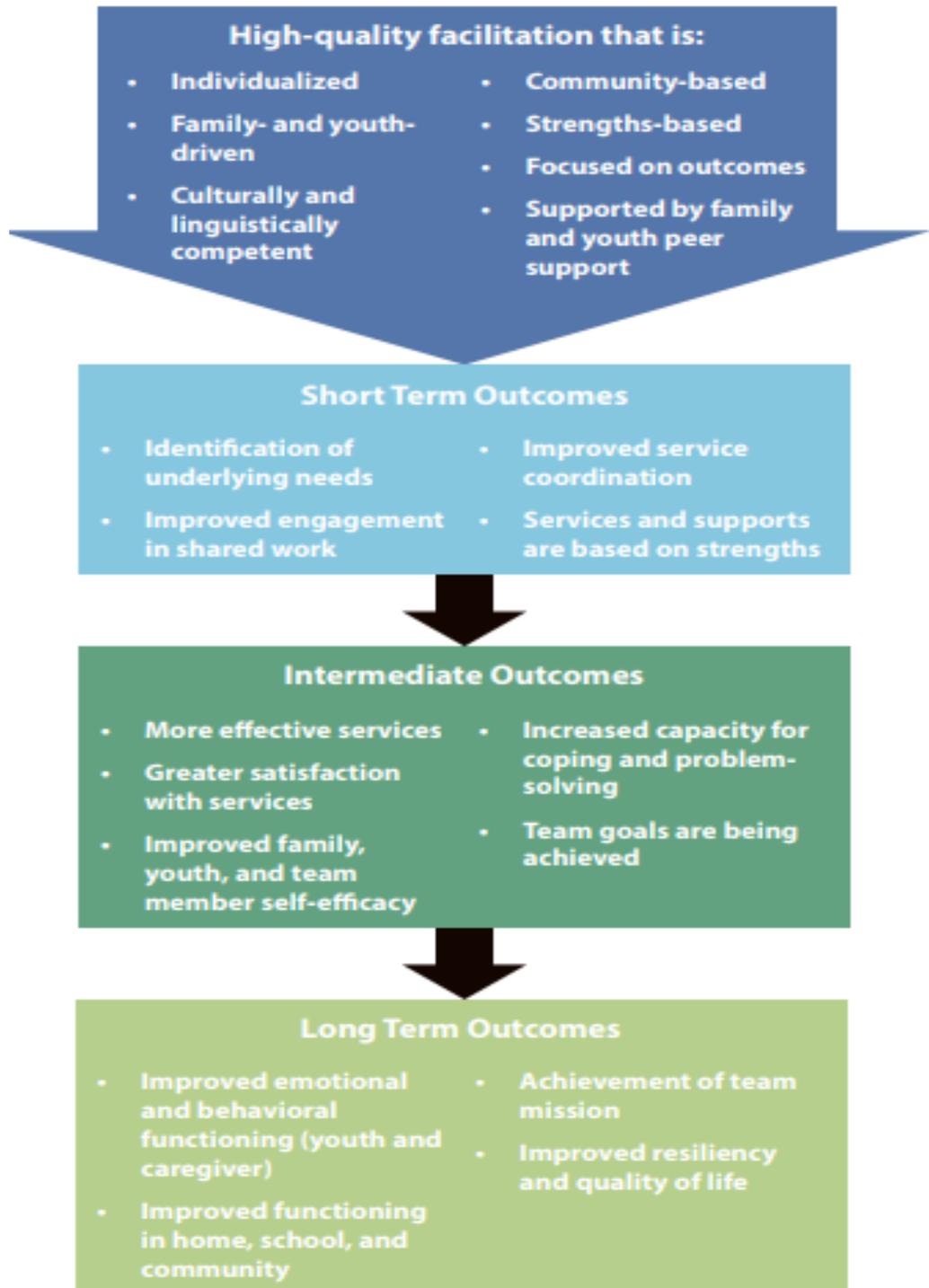
Why Wraparound? Continued...

The family then chooses their 'team' and together the team supports the family to develop an individualized care plan. The plan isn't a 'prescription' but rather is flexible, and includes strength based, sustainable and measurable goals. Since the plans are individualized, and the goals are measurable, the wrap process is a commitment on the part of the family and typically a family can be involved with the process for over a year.

Who Is a Good Fit for Wraparound?

Families who have had many other interventions without success are often a good fit for wrap. For example, if a youth has had contact with their school counselor, clinical social worker, and other high level school supports without any change or success the wraparound process could be useful for them. Wraparound families may be involved with community agencies such as mental health, juvenile justice or department of children, youth and families. Some of the strategies that may arise through the process could support families navigating their current involvement with systems but the goal of the work is to have families gain skills and resources to sustain themselves.

Wrap families can be referred by anyone in the community with the most frequent referrals coming from district area schools due to their high knowledge and frequent contact with youth and use of their multi-tiered support systems (MTSS-B). Families must be willing to commit to the wraparound process which includes meetings with the coordinator leading up to the first team meeting. Wraparound families can be on the coordinator's caseload



from 12-18 months with the real impact beginning after a 6 month commitment. Wraparound is not a quick fix, but it is highly effective in empowering families to use their strengths to build long term system solutions. It is expected that referent share with the family what wrap-around looks like to make sure that they are interested and part of the process from the start.

Once a referral is made, it is given to our eligibility coordinator, Michelle King, through Northern Human Services. Michelle is a highly trained professional who works to do an intake phone call with families, answering any additional questions about wraparound and making sure that families are eligible and a good fit for the process. Follow-up to referrals are done within a 48 hour period and the intake process soon follows in a way that is most convenient for the family.

Outcomes

Wrap has been proven to lessen youth hospitalizations, increase the likelihood of families staying together and increase family engagement with the community. Schools see a drop in behavioral/discipline referrals and an increase in attendance with their wrap around families.

The financial implications of wrap are significant as it has proven to save on out of home, district and state placements and psychiatric hospitalizations as well as high involvements with other outside systems.

Wrap feels different. Families involved with wrap show a high level of engagement and report feeling heard during the process. When youth and families are involved in creating their plan, services and supports feel more meaningful and the sustainability is great.

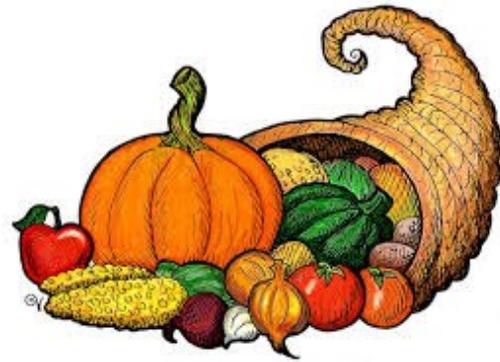
The Big Picture

Wraparound services and supports work to address the highest needs families in the district however it is important to keep in mind the larger System of Care (SoC) grant is simultaneously working to provide

health and wellness to all students. Both wraparound and the larger SoC grant are working to break down silos between schools and community agencies. That said, the wrap families' experiences are really useful in identifying larger system challenges such as supporting more collaboration between schools and mental health agencies, identifying gaps for family and community engagement as well as breaking down stigmas of mental illness in schools and the community.

So while wraparound is serving a small percentage of community families, the work is changing the way we do 'business' allowing us to be truly strength based, family centered as well as recognize the need to bridge the gaps between schools and the larger community. We have all of the resources we need, it is just a matter of re-allocating our strengths as a community in a way that makes sense to best serve our youth and families.

In the spirit of the season of giving thanks and being grateful, the SoC Grant has really allowed for youth, families, schools and the community to be hopeful and that is already making a big impact.



For more information about our System of Care and the F.A.S.T. Forward Program please visit our website at <https://sau36.org/wmrdsoc>

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