

The National Building Bridges Initiative

Transforming Care to Ensure Better Outcomes for Youth and Families Served in Residential and Community Programs

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ON COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Findings from the Research to Residential

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- There appear to be some severe risks associated with residential treatment
- Youth with antisocial behavior or violence do not appear to improve in residential care
- Brief hospitalization or acute crisis care may be more effective for some presenting problems
- Little solid outcome data and one of most expensive services
- One important study: 75% of our children in prison or hospitals within 7 years of discharge
- Some unintended adverse outcomes

Research Findings - Positive Outcomes

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- Family-driven care (engagement/involvement/education)
- Wraparound approaches (inclusive of child/family teams)
- Family foster care rather than group care; foster care using wraparound (i.e. North American Family Institute)
- Youth-guided Care
- Focus on transition/community involvement
- System of care approaches
- Education
- Specific best practices and EBP's
- Counties/agencies across country that have transformed and realized very positive outcomes

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Mission

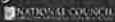
Identify and promote practice and policy initiatives that will create strong and closely coordinated partnerships and collaborations between families, youth, community- and residentially-based treatment and service providers, advocates and policy makers to ensure that comprehensive services and supports are family-driven, youth-guided, strength-based, culturally and linguistically competent, individualized, evidence and practice-informed, and consistent with the research on sustained positive outcomes.

Highlights of the National Building Bridges Initiative



- November 2005 to Present
- National Steering Committee
- National Summits in 2006 & 2007
- **Workgroups**
 - ✓ Outcomes
 - ✓ Social Marketing
 - ✓ Family/Youth Partnerships
- **Developing documents to support the field**
 - ✓ Joint Resolution
 - ✓ Matrix/SAT
 - ✓ Family and Youth Tip Sheets
- **Ongoing Projects (fiscal/policy barriers & solutions)**

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Core Principles from the Joint Resolution

- Family Driven & Youth Guided care
- Cultural & Linguistic Competence
- Clinical Excellence & Quality Standards
- Accessibility & Community Involvement
- Transition Planning & Services (Between Settings & from Youth to Adulthood)

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·You never change things by fighting existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the old model obsolete.

- Buckminster Fuller

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- Family Driven →
- Youth Guided →
- Cultural/Linguistic Competence →
- Clinical Exc./Qual St. →
- Accessibility/Com. Involvement →
- Transition Planning →

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Actually results in radical change – making the old model obsolete

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Primary Focus on Family-Driven and Youth-Guided Care

Families and youth

- ✓ are EXPERTS regarding their lives
- ✓ develop RELATIONSHIPS of trust
- ✓ expect providers to offer TOOLS
- ✓ wish to PARTICIPATE positively

Agencies/Organizations & the Community

- ✓ promote CULTURE CHANGE
- ✓ HIRE family members
- ✓ form CHILD AND FAMILY TEAMS
- ✓ build and nurture SUPPORT NETWORKS
- ✓ ENGAGE system partners & COLLABORATE effectively
- ✓ SHARE RESOURCES

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In Family-Driven and Youth-Guided Care

Youth and families

- ✓ engage if efforts are a GOOD FIT
- ✓ appreciate COLLABORATION
- ✓ use resources EFFECTIVELY
- ✓ strive for SEAMLESS transitions



Organizations and communities

- ✓ support PARTICIPATION of peers, friends & family
- ✓ strive for NORMATIVE ENVIRONMENTS
- ✓ offer TRAINING, COACHING & PEER MENTORING (to all)
- ✓ invest in SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (staff & participants)
- ✓ ENGAGE others (schools, youth organizations, etc.)

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Youth and families



- ✓ strive to RECOVER quickly & maintain SUCCESS
- ✓ benefit from non- traditional and traditional, evidence and practice informed services that best meet their unique needs and interests

Organizations and communities

- ✓ utilize the WRAPAROUND APPROACH
- ✓ hire staff with EXPERTISE in the process
- ✓ plan for EFFECTIVE TRANSITIONS
- ✓ keep everyone ENGAGED (families, youth, staff, community members, providers, educators, friends, etc.)


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Youth and families

- ✓ share RESPONSIBILITY, and COMMITMENT to unconditional support
- ✓ are effective ADVOCATES

Organizations and communities

- ✓ VALUE (everyone's) participation
- ✓ SUPPORT youth and families' advisory/advocacy role
- ✓ FACILITATE participation:
 - ensure convenient scheduling
 - provide transportation, food, stipends, child care, etc.
- ✓ Commit to CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE
- ✓ CELEBRATE !



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States/counties/agencies that have transformed/built new models, realizing positive outcomes

To name just a few:

- EMQ, CA
- Hathaway-Sycamores, CA
- Damar Services, Inc., IN
- Jewish Child Care Association, NY
- Family and Children's Services, TN
- States/Counties: New York (Monroe/Westchester), Massachusetts, Kansas (Sedgwick), Wisconsin, and others

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EMQ Children and Family Services & Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services (California)

- Both closed 100 residential beds and realized more positive outcomes for youth serving them & their families in the community
- Both used research (e.g., > family involvement; connectedness to school/community/home; ongoing aftercare; shorter lengths of stay in residential; other)
- Components included, but not limited to:
 - Wraparound to Fidelity
 - Family Search & Engage Model
 - Redefine Residential (24/7 Intensive Family Services; Res-Wrap)
 - Hired many, many family partners
 - Transitional Focus (stay connected with/strengthen community ties)

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Damar Services, Inc. (Indiana)

- **Implemented a Family and Community Treatment Pilot (2008)** with significant positive outcomes (sustained success in community; 4 months LOS in residential - control group 11 months; savings of over \$1,350,000 in one year)
- **Specialty expertise for serving youth with DD/MH** in residential (find families; support families and youth - Child/Family Team; conduct most programming in community; focus always on long-term and generalization)

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New York State

- **Statewide Building Bridges Initiative involving Mental Health Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Education, Developmental Disabilities**
- **Held 2 Statewide Planning Days** - brought in national experts; highlighted intent of each State agency to move towards best practices and focus on positive outcomes
- **Developed and distributed a "Positive Outcomes from Building Bridges Report"** to all NYS BBI stakeholders. The report highlighted the work of the four NYS agencies specific to BBI, including their focus on cross-agency collaboration related to Licensing; Program Innovation and Bed Planning.

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Striving for shorter lengths of stay in residential

- **Wisconsin**
- **Kansas, Wichita (COMCARE of Sedgwick County)** (remaining youth in residential are from foster care system with no viable placements)
- **EMQ/Hathaway Sycamore**
- **and others moving in this direction...**
