Dear Community Partners,

When families first come into Wraparound, things are generally not going very well... Families may be in crisis--due to a single event or multiple problems that have been building up. Often they have tried other services that have not been helpful or met their deeper needs. Youth might be struggling with serious mental health or behavioral challenges putting them at-risk, of out of home placement (foster care, the hospital, juvenile detention, residential treatment, etc.). Living through the toxic stress and challenges of a pandemic has only intensified these needs.

Last year, we assisted families with many types of challenges including: behavioral health needs, children services involvement, complex trauma, developmental delays and/or medical needs, juvenile justice involvement, kinship placements, poverty, psychiatric hospitalizations, school challenges, substance use disorder, toxic stress, and youth who needed help transitioning to adulthood.

These youth & families are our youth & families and it takes a community to help them thrive.
Developing one coordinated plan with a team approach reduces fragmented service delivery and saves time, money & heartache. Listening to what families need most, guides us in what to focus on first to successfully address unmet needs. Supports and services are designed to improve, strengthen and stabilize family functioning and well-being with the goal of helping youth remain in their homes and in the community. The Family and Children First Council has member agencies who work together to advocate for the gaps in systems, find creative solutions, share resources, and weave & wrap services around families when they need it most. Changing how we provide help together, can change the trajectory of a youth's life.

Wraparound is a free service for Butler County families, regardless of income. Referrals come from many sources including self-referral from parents, from schools, or from the youth-serving government agencies. Do you know a youth or family who might be struggling to find the help they need, who could benefit from this approach? Or would you like to support struggling youth and families when they need it most? To learn more go to www.butlerfcfc.org.

Sincerely,

Beth Race, Executive Director
Butler County Family & Children First Council
beth.race@bcesc.org
ABOUT COMMUNITY WRAPAROUND

Wraparound assists youth and families with complex needs, multi-system involvement, and often intensive behaviors to develop a team of support. Utilizing the family's strengths to problem-solve and plan, Wraparound facilitators bring together a variety of supports to organize help for the family, prioritize their greatest needs, and connect them with community resources & natural supports. All of this is done in an effort to help the family reach their vision for a better life.

SNAPSHOT OF WHO WE SERVE...

- **184** YOUTH SERVED
- **33** COMMUNITY PARTNER AGENCIES
- **737** MEETINGS FACILITATED

**Race Identification**
- White or Caucasian - 66%
- Bi-Racial or Mixed Race - 14%
- Black or African American - 15%
- Hispanic - 4%
- Asian - 1%

**Family Composition**
- Kinship Caregiver - 23%
- Single Parent - 49%
- Both Parents - 22%
- Guardian - 2%
- Children Services - 3%
- Self - 1%

**About Community Wraparound**
- **45%** FEMALE
- **13 yrs.** AVERAGE AGE AT REFERRAL
- **55%** MALE
- **83%** LOW-INCOME, TANF ELIGIBLE FAMILIES
FAMILY VOICE & CHOICE

"Our goals were always listened to and Wraparound worked to meet our goals instead of trying to impose their own." Family feedback like this makes us strive to ensure that family preferences are voiced & prioritized throughout the planning process. Caretakers and youth get to help choose what might work best for their family. Instead of systems and services developing separate plans that tell the child or family what to do, the team works together in developing a holistic plan focused on what is needed in order to thrive. Utilizing the Family Empowerment Scale, we measure the caretaker's feelings of empowerment at intake, every six months, & at closure.

I make sure that professional understand my opinions about what services my child needs

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<tr>
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<th>I make sure that professional understand my opinions about what services my child needs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>4.2 at intake</td>
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<td>4.6 at closing</td>
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I know what services my child needs

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3.5 at intake</td>
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I have a good understanding of the service system that my child is involved in

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<th>I have a good understanding of the service system that my child is involved in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3.8 at intake</td>
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<td>4.2 at closing</td>
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I am able to get information to help me better understand my child

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<td>3.6 at intake</td>
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<td>4.2 at closing</td>
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Scoring uses a 1-5 scale where 1=Never, 2=Seldom, 3=Sometimes, 4=Often and 5=Very Often.

PARENT & YOUTH PEER PARTNERS: WE’VE GOT THIS...TOGETHER

Every family participating in the Wraparound process has the opportunity to utilize our parent and youth peer partners. Peers are individuals who can walk alongside the family during the process and have lived experience with systems involvement; either as a caregiver or during their youth. Helping the family advocate for themselves, ensuring their voice is heard, navigating resources, and working to connect the family to long-term community supports are just a few important roles peers play.

"My parent partner did a perfectly wonderful job. She helped me understand everything. Her tone of voice, being concerned, caring about people, sharing self-care & affirmations helped me so much mentally."

-Wraparound caretaker supported by a parent peer partner

"Thank you so much. I loved having you be a part of my life. You helped me get through so much and now I believe in myself."

-Wraparound youth supported by a youth peer partner
TEAM-BASED & NATURAL SUPPORTS

Wraparound Teams include individuals who have been identified by the family as their supporters who can brainstorm and help with one unified plan for support and help. Teams can include professional supports (behavioral health providers, caseworkers, educators, etc.) and natural supports (family friends, extended family & community members). This balance is important in developing plans that are individualized, strengths-based, and sustainable even after formal services end.

723 ACTIONS BRAINSTORMED & IMPLEMENTED BY TEAMS

55 NATURAL SUPPORTS SERVING ON TEAMS

53 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS UTILIZED BY WRAPAROUND TEAMS

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Families are always at the center of our work, but who are some of the other helpers on our teams?

- Administrators, Counselors, Educators from School
- Case Manager from Children's Services
- Caring Adults-Coaches, Pastors, etc.
- Family & Friends-Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, Neighbors, etc.
- Medical Professionals & Medicaid Representatives
- Mental Health Case Manager or Therapist
- Probation Officers from Juvenile Court
- Support Coordinators from the Board of Disabilities

Teams brainstorm, help implement ideas, provide resources, share what is working, and wrap support around youth and families. They bring unique expertise, strengths, observations, and relationships to the table that really make a difference.

"Wraparound meetings addressed any new behaviors that developed. The team was able to provide feedback and get more information about (the youth's) barriers, which helped with brainstorming about what is needed and how to help."

-Wraparound team member
COLLABORATION

The magic of Wraparound is found in people and agencies across the community working together to coordinate creative strategies that meet the needs of youth & families. Working with a shared mission, teams come together to organize help, divide tasks, and share funding. Together we navigate through the web of programs and systems to find the right mix of formal & informal supports and services. In the charts below, you will see the variety of referral sources and youth systems involvement of youth enrolled in wraparound. Having all partners at the Wraparound table helps families carry out their action steps in one unified plan.

As we serve Wraparound youth & families collaboratively, we also identify gaps and needs in services. This allows us to work better together and leverage resources and strategize on how to make needed improvements to our system of care in the future.

REFERRAL SOURCES

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

Collaboration with schools and school personnel is a key piece to supporting youth and families throughout the Wraparound process. Many youth we serve are supported by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan. We work with counselors & educators to help navigate and advocate for youth to get the accommodations needed to succeed. We also have provided many free trainings to educators about trauma, social-emotional learning, and resiliency. We know that youth who find success in school can move on to thriving career paths in the future.
**Shared Funding**

Wraparound is a *free* service to all families living in Butler County regardless of income thanks to local, state, and federal funding. Funders include: The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Butler County Educational Service Center (in-kind), Butler County Job and Family Services, the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board, the Engage 2.0 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration grant, and NAMI Ohio Parent Advocacy Connection. Additionally, the state provides grant funding for Family-Centered Supports and Services (FCSS) and Multi-System Youth through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Job & Family Services, and Department of Medicaid.

*Over $18,424 in flexible funds were accessed by youth & families to meet a one-time emergency need, connect in the community, or help provide a service not paid for by other agencies.* Funds have helped provide: art & activities, family supports, graduation gifts, mentoring, organizational items, safety equipment, summer camp, team fees, transportation costs and more!

**Funding Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSY-OH Medicaid</td>
<td>$45,526</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCMHARS</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCFS/BCCS</td>
<td>$310,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAMI</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAMI - Local</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCDD</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>$145,526</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSY - Local</td>
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<td>$310,000</td>
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**Flexible Contracted Services & Supports**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Recreation/Family Enrichment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>$8,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptive Equipment</td>
<td>$470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencements</td>
<td>$875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art &amp; activities</td>
<td>$5,693</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Supports</td>
<td>$3,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>$8,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety/Adaptive Equipment</td>
<td>$470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencements</td>
<td>$875</td>
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</table>

**Family Spotlight**

**Collaborative Team Approach**

"I cannot even put into words how much Wraparound helped and transformed our lives. Hannah has been such an advocate and went above and beyond to help our family—checking in and available for whatever I need. Lynda has been amazing when it comes to empowering me to work with the school and know my rights. She has been at meetings and worked with me on how to navigate situations in a non-emotional way. Beth made an instant connection with my son (which can be very difficult at times). He does not connect well and she made him feel accepted and comfortable—he was actually excited to hang out with her. Presley Ridge was so helpful and decreased a lot of the aggressiveness that my son had been displaying. Wraparound offered connections to activities and sent my son to camp. We are forever in debt to this agency as they have transformed our family. We know that we always have support to go to and know they will help with whatever needs we may have. I so appreciate you and all your help you have been a light in a life!" —Parent thank you letter after transition from Wraparound
COMMUNITY-BASED

At its core, Wraparound’s goal is to keep youth and families within their communities in the least restrictive environment and out of residential institutions whenever possible. We believe that all children deserve to live with a loving family in a home-like setting. Activities, supports, and treatment in the home and the local community ensure the youth’s needs are met, while supporting caretakers.

COST SAVINGS PER LEVEL OF CARE

Wraparound helped maintain or return youth to their homes resulting in a cost savings of $1,090,680! By monitoring the level of risk for out-of-home placement for youth and planning around their needs, the risk of out-of-home placement decreases saving systems partners and taxpayers.

YOUTH WITH PLACEMENT DISRUPTIONS

Wraparound teams are planning for very complex youth and family needs and at times, youth might need a higher level of care for a short period away from their family and community. 81% of youth served had no placement disruptions throughout their entire time spent in wraparound leading to more time with their caregivers, living in the community, in their home, and in school.

MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS OF THE YOUTH WE SERVE

Most youth involved in Wraparound struggle with mental health: Last year 100% of youth had a diagnosis at referral or received one during their time in the program. The chart on the left breakdown the diagnostic categories of the youth we serve (note: some youth have multiple diagnoses). While Wraparound focuses on a holistic plan beyond a diagnosis label, teams keep in mind the mental health needs of each young person by identifying worsening symptoms, discussing crisis plans, and promoting self-care & wellness.
PERSISTENCE & OUTCOME-BASED

In Wraparound, 80% of families are connected with long-term supports that meet the needs for their family and/or meet their goals! Teams commit to helping even through challenges and setbacks—never blaming or giving up on the youth and families we serve. Progress is monitored at the family & program level through measurable indicators and assessments. The Wraparound staff is also committed to continuous quality improvement through data review, group coaching, supervision, and professional development.

To meet high fidelity standards, we use tools from the Ohio Wraparound Coaching Targets and the National Wraparound Institute.

"THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN UP ON US YET!"
-PARENT OF A YOUTH IN WRAPAROUND

MEASURING IMPACT

The Ohio Scales measures the parent’s and youth’s assessment of their problem areas, overall functioning, and hopefulness of the family. Assessments are given at the start of wraparound and at transition. As you can see, hopefulness increases, problem severity decreases, and functioning improves during a family’s time with Wraparound.
CULTURALLY COMPETENT, INDIVIDUALIZED & STRENGTHS-BASED

Wraparound works for so many families, because emphasis is placed on tailoring the family's plan to their unique strengths, needs, and story. Often families come to Wraparound because the traditional systems and services are not working for them. Wraparound focuses on being:

- **Culturally Competent**: Respecting a family's culture and building the plan around their values & beliefs.
- **Individualized**: Customizing strategies and unique ideas for each family.
- **Strengths-Based**: Identifying and utilizing the capabilities of the youth, family and team.

- **100%** of families agreed or strongly agreed they were treated with respect in Wraparound.
- **2,641** total number of strengths identified of youth, family, and team members.
- **92%** of families agreed or strongly agreed their team was sensitive to religious and cultural beliefs.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

FROM STRUGGLING TO COLLEGE BOUND

Asia was referred to Wraparound after problems with "feeling motivated" in daily life, attending school regularly, and communicating with her mom in the midst of emotional struggles. With her input, the team developed a plan for Asia to feel grounded through life's ups and downs while finding the right supports, including community mental health help, a school plan, and finding things to do outside of the home that tapped into her love of art & helped her cope.

Moving to a new school district, Asia reported the teachers really supported her, listened to her needs, and focused on strengths rather than deficits. Her attendance and grades improved. She participated in programming at a teen center, a summer film camp to explore her career options, and attended a program at Ohio Means Jobs where she learned employment and life skills. Asia got a job after school, which she has held for over a year, and is saving for a vehicle. Asia will start college in the fall with an art scholarship.

Her collaborative and diverse team of supporters included representatives from Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Edge Teen Center, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, Juvenile Court, Lakota Schools, Ohio Means Jobs, Pressley Ridge, and the Success Liaison Program. They provided constant support, persistent encouragement, and developed connections for Asia that will follow her into adulthood.
STRAIGHT FROM YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND TEAM MEMBERS

Families and team members regularly provide feedback on how they feel the process is going, how their needs are being met, and how they feel supported by their team of supports. Here are some of the highlights when asked, "What is the best thing about Wraparound?"

"Getting different ideas from people involved in my child's care."

"Getting help from facilitator to bring teams together to brainstorm ideas to help through this recovery process."

"The different perspectives were helpful in trying new things."

"Parent peer support and new information ideas."

"The best thing about Wraparound is having support for my entire family."

"They help me to find services for my family needs. They are a sounding board for me to discuss my family problems."

"Bringing a team together to brainstorm ways to help my child."

"A plan to work with and a goal to reach. Info on things that will help."

"Wraparound has helped my family and me because it gave me an opportunity to open up to my family and helped us stick to the plan. When I first started Wraparound, “I would not let myself love others, and others could not love me,” But with Wraparound, I was able to tell others what I wanted, and the team encouraged me to use all my coping skills. Most of all, Wraparound made me realize that I have people who care and helped me stay out of JDC and the hospital. Wraparound is awesome!"

-Youth involved in Wraparound
"I have learned that it is ok to seek help when needed and that it takes a village with special needs." - Wraparound parent

For more information contact:
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