

Title: Overview of WrapAround Services in Douglas County Author: Marsha Alston, Youth Services Program Manager

Douglas County WrapAround is offered as a voluntary, free of charge service to County residents who have a child between the ages of 5-21. Even though the program must have an identified child with a significant need or system involvement, DC WRAP works with the entire family. On average, WRAP works with a family for 12 months, and follows a high fidelity WrapAround model.

The DC WRAP program accepts referrals from professionals in the community, accepts self-referrals and maintains a phone referral line, 303-663-6233. Once a referral is made, a WrapAround Facilitator contacts both the family and the referral source. Next, the family goes into a Three Step Intake system:

Step 1: we contact the referred family, who in some cases may not be aware they were referred, and explain what WRAP is: an 8-12 month long, family engagement, problem solving model.

Step 2: establish consistent communication with the family; go over the process; talk to the family once a week; help the family access community resources if housing or food stability is an issue; help apply for food stamps, Medicaid, etc.

Step 3: a WrapAround Facilitator is assigned. The family then begins the WrapAround process. After an initial meeting, the family selects a team of natural supports and develops a plan to identify ways to be successful. Each WrapAround Plan is based on the unique strengths of the family; for example, what are the best qualities of the parents, and does the family have a long range vision of where they would like to be after this process? WRAP is there to help the family identify needs, help them put a plan together, and then put that plan into action.

Experience and Qualifications of WRAP Staff:

Cheryl Johnson: WrapAround Facilitator. Cheryl began in August of 2012. Ms Johnson has a tremendous amount of child welfare experience and has worked in El Paso and Teller Counties. While at El Paso County, Cheryl held the following positions: Adolescent Intake Supervisor, Caseworker I, Caseworker III for the Incest Intake Team, and Dependency and Neglect Case Manager.

Paige Costa: Ms Costa joined WrapAround in December of 2012 and previously worked in Pennsylvania as a WrapAround Youth Support Partner. Prior to her role with Montgomery County, Paige worked as a Youth Support Partner for the nonprofit Child and Family Focus where she engaged youth, family and professionals to work in High-Fidelity Wraparound. During this time, Paige also served on the Youth Member Pennsylvania State Leadership Team. Paige was the nation's first WrapAround Certified Youth Support Partner.

Patsy Bjork: Ms Bjork has been with DC WRAP for two years as a Facilitator. Patsy brings valuable experience to Douglas County as she works with families and helps train others about the Family Support Partner role.

Prior to coming to Douglas County, Ms Bjork worked in El Paso County as a Family Support Partner and Trainer. In 2010 she served as vice chair for the Wraparound Coalition in Southern Colorado and for a period of time was the Family Support Partner Lead.

Celestine (Tena) Lyles: Douglas County Family Support Partner (FSP). Tena has been with WrapAround since the Fall of 2011. In her role as FSP, Tena supports families using much of her own experience as a former WrapAround client. One of the most powerful things for a parent or guardian is to find another parent who understands what it's like to live this life. This is the premise for a FSP in High Fidelity WrapAround. The FSP position offers varying levels of support for families based on the family's needs and WRAP plan. FSP's work closely with the Facilitator to support positive outcomes for the family.

WrapAround Defined:

WrapAround is a planning process that is designed to create an individualized plan to meet the needs of children and families by utilizing their strengths. WrapAround is an evidence based method for delivery of services and supports to children and families with complex, multiple needs and risk factors; who may be served by multiple agencies. WrapAround services are developed through a team approach that includes the child/youth, parent(s) or guardians, other services providers/agencies, schools, extended family and friends and others that the child and/or family identifies. These teams of natural and professional supports work together toward a common goal. Wraparound services are a particularly effective approach in serving children served by multiple systems.

As the name suggests, WRAP as a strategy involves "wrapping" a comprehensive array of individualized services and support networks "around" families.