



★ Star View Children and Family Services ★

TEAMMATES Wraparound

BRIEF REPORT from the Department of Research and Program Practices

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Star View Community Services' TEAMMATES (TMs) Wraparound Program serves children, youth and transitional aged youth and their families in Los Angeles County. Children and youth are referred by the Los Angeles County Departments of Child and Family Services, Probation and Mental Health. At referral to TMs, all children experience significant mental health issues that meet medical necessity treatment criteria; in addition, the families typically face challenges that make removal of their child from home a possibility, if the child is not already in foster care. Our goal is to help children and families build upon their strengths and natural resources to stay together, while addressing their child's mental health and permanency needs. TMs offers extensive experience with wraparound service provision, evidence based treatments including a comprehensive trauma practice called *Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency*, family finding, and an array of group services to their clients/families, including substance abuse recovery workshops for parents and caregivers. The program also helps run a community-based resource center that is available to young adults, called the **GAY Hot Spot** located in Carson, California. This **BRIEF REPORT** highlights outcomes for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16.

Participants:

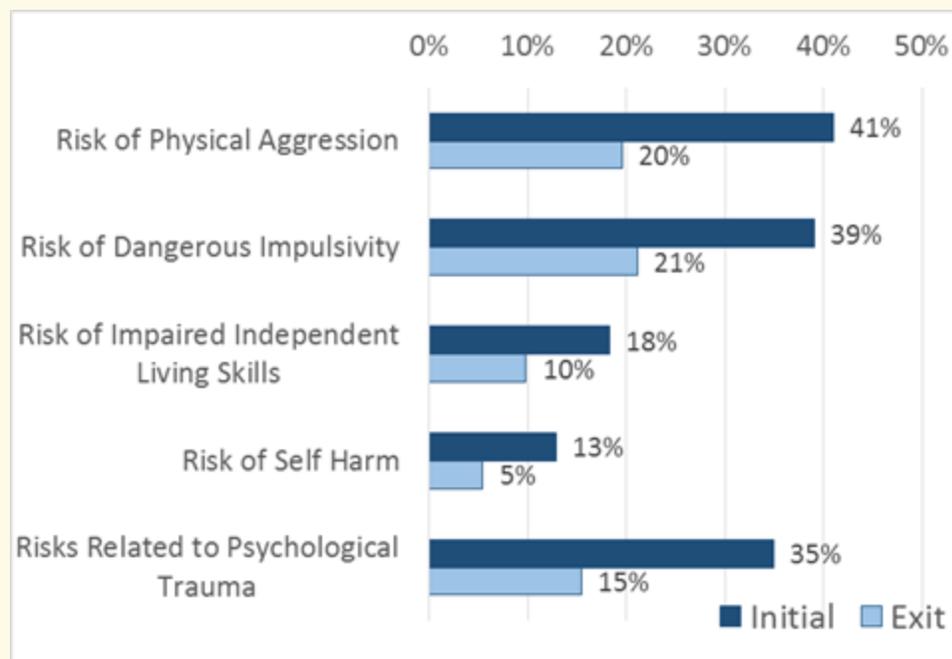
Since TM's last Brief Report (FY 13-14), the program served 625 children, youth and young adults: 415 exited and there was an average of 21 individuals completing treatment each month. The average time in the program was 14 months. The average age of participants was 13 years old; 47% were African American, 47% were Latino, and 6% other. The children were 59% male and 41% female. Children and youth entering the program all have significant behavioral health issues that meet medical necessity criteria for mental health treatment and all had prior contacts with the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems.

Outcomes:

Risk Behaviors Decreased. One reason children and youth may be at risk of being placed outside the home is that their own behavior puts them or others in danger. On the graph at right, you can see **that a wide range of risk behaviors are reduced by exit in Wraparound, including physical aggression toward others, dangerous impulsivity, and the risk of self-harm.** The *Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale* (CAFAS) graph (next page) shows a similar decrease in problem Behavior Toward Others as well as Mood/Emotions and Self-Harm, all of which contribute to improved home and school functioning.

Decreased Behavioral Risks

Percent of children and youth at risk at initial and exit assessments (improvement is seen as decrease between initial and exit %'s; n=302 matched pairs of assessments, initial and exit)



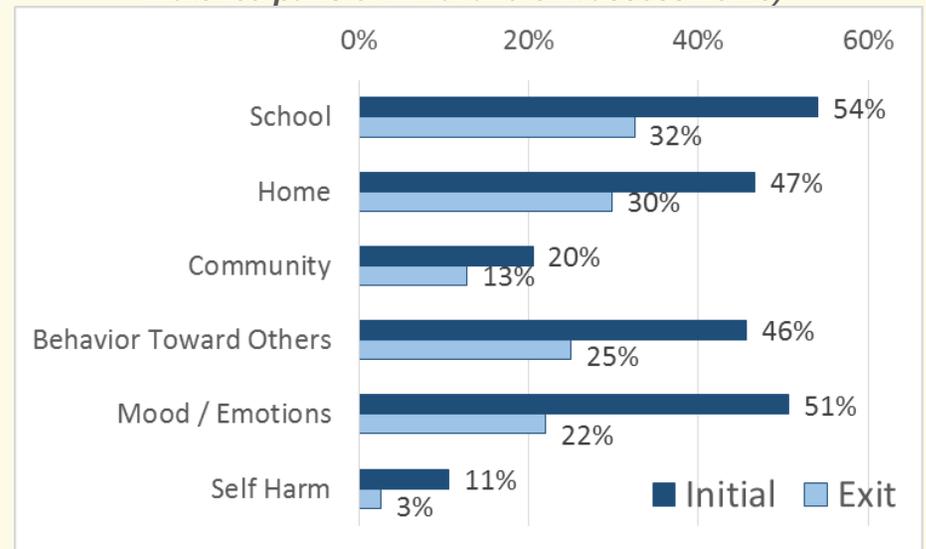
School Functioning Improved. Functioning at school also improved per specific measurements regarding school behavior, and the CAFAS School domain; latter shown at right. Our specific measurements indicate that **more children and youth are out of disciplinary trouble at school by exit (26% improvement), and more are doing well academically (47% improvement).** These gains are most likely attributable to improved direction, support and participation of caregivers with their children’s schooling and positive behavioral interventions, and the strong focus on schooling/vocation provided by our wraparound teams including resources offered through the **GAY Hot Spot.**

Social and Emotional Functioning Improved. Improvements related to the impacts of psychological trauma on behavioral risks and on the Moods/Emotions and Self-Harm scales of the CAFAS strongly suggest that TEAMMATES Wraparound **services ease emotional distress and helps relieve impairment due to trauma.** This extends to young adult clients whom report having acquired a range of useful coping skills for their mental health issues (90%) and making progress in managing their own symptoms (81%). Wellness self-management indices include: identifying own symptoms; making use of available resources and services to manage symptoms; and, creating and following their own Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP).

Families are Central! Family members are key members of the Wraparound team and shape the goals of the Wraparound process. **TM’s families face many challenges;** for example, upon their child’s enrollment, 53% of caregivers struggle with parenting skills that need improvement. Caregivers also face challenges such as domestic violence, substance use, economic hardship and/or physical health issues.

Our parent partners work alongside parents and caregivers, providing psychoeducation, parenting skills instruction, emotional support and linkages to needed services. In addition, an exciting new series of classes are now offered caregivers, by our **certified substance abuse counselor** to help them learn how to address substance abuse issues; additionally, parents participating in these classes subsequently formed their own continuing support group.

Reduced Impairments in Functioning
 % Child and Youth with Significant Functional Impairment on Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS)
 (improvement is a decrease of % children with impairment; n=228 matched pairs of initial and exit assessments)



Adults are a Source of Strength. The most common protective factors at the start of treatment include appropriate **positive expectations encouraged by adults (65%),** and **emotional support from adults (54%)** toward older youth (ages 15+) participating in Wraparound. Adults in this metric include, but are not limited to parents/caretakers.

Family Finding Program. **Family finding is an essential component of wraparound** for those youth, such as those emerging from foster care, whom lack family support. TM’s family finding component serves an active census of 67 children and youth monthly, during which time, on average, 10 children achieve new contacts with newly identified family members and 11 children are emancipated with a new lasting family connection.

Family Reunification. Of those families working on reunification during treatment, 52% achieved reunification by exit and many continued to work toward reunification as a very real possibility.

Youth, TAY and Family Satisfaction. Youth, transitional age youth and their families were all satisfied – well over 80% endorsements across multiple items and domains -- with the services provided, the effectiveness of the services, and community supports. The chart at right shows family satisfaction results. Examples of family items are “.....received help being stronger and more unified as a family?” (98%, personal effectiveness domain) and “...invited to work on goals you chose?” (98%, service access & process domain).

A couple of highlights from youth satisfaction surveys included their perceptions that they received needed:

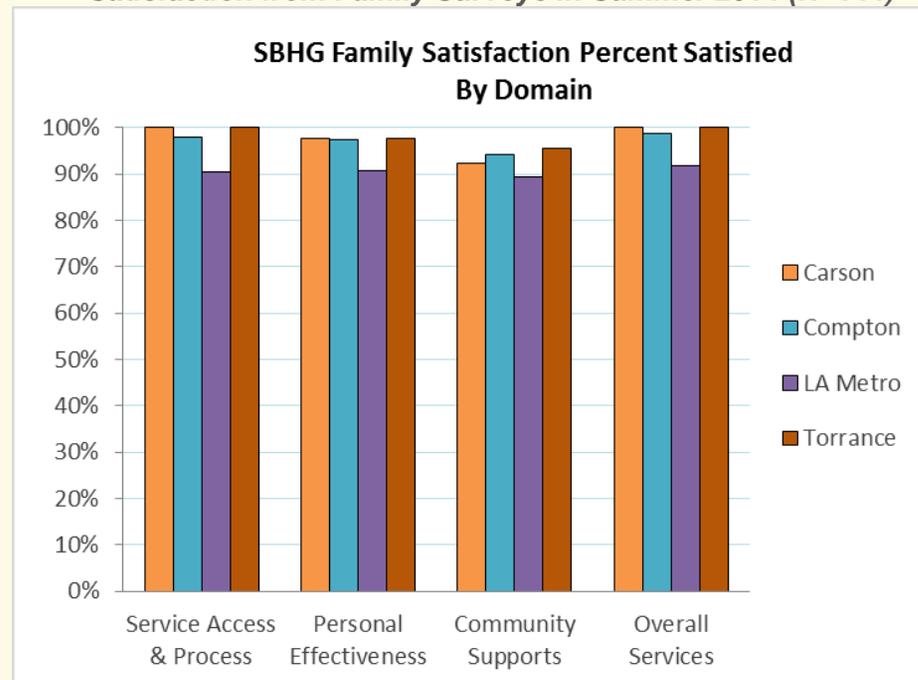
“.....help with school?” (95%, community support)
 “.....help with emotional problems?” (88%, personal effectiveness)

And, from young adults:

“.....help with developing good habits?” (100%, pers. effective.)
 “.....help with housing issues?” (95%, community support)

A Great Experience for Youth: Youth participating in TM's Wraparound program can participate in the activities of the **TAY Hot Spot**, which is a drop-in center for transitional aged youth, ages 15 to 25. The **setting offers a fun, positive and safe environment** wherein older youth and young adults receive vocational and educational support, independent living skills workshops, and classes in art, computing, cooking, music and more. This center is a tremendously important community resource for our Wraparound teams and participating youth.

Satisfied Families
 Satisfaction from Family Surveys in Summer 2014 (N=144)



Summary:

In FY 2014-15, 135 children and youth graduated after successfully completing the Star View TEAMMATES Wraparound program.ⁱ By maintaining strong fidelityⁱⁱ to the Wraparound model and by offering programs like the TAY drop-in center, substance abuse recovery classes, and family finding, **TMs fulfills the promise of doing whatever it takes!** We are glad to have had the opportunity to help the children and families we serve find the help they need to become stronger families and effective individuals.

Star View Children and Family Services is an affiliate of *Stars Behavioral Health Group* (SBHG), a statewide provider of behavioral health care and related educational and social services to children, adolescents, young adult and adults and their family members. Star View TEAMMATES Wraparound Program is funded primarily through child welfare and mental health (both federal and non-federal) sources.

ⁱ In Star View TEAMMATES in FY 2014-15, 135 children graduated from the program and 74 children exited with negative outcomes, a graduation rate of 65% for that year.

ⁱⁱ The team completes Wraparound fidelity protocols regularly and enters them into University of Washington's WrapTrack™ database. TEAMMATES meets or exceeds national averages on both the Team Observation Measure (TOMs) and Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI), results that underscore the program's high fidelity to the national wraparound program model.