



# ★ Starlight Community Services ★

## Starlight Wraparound TEAMMATES Program

**BRIEF REPORT** from the Department of Research and Program Practices  
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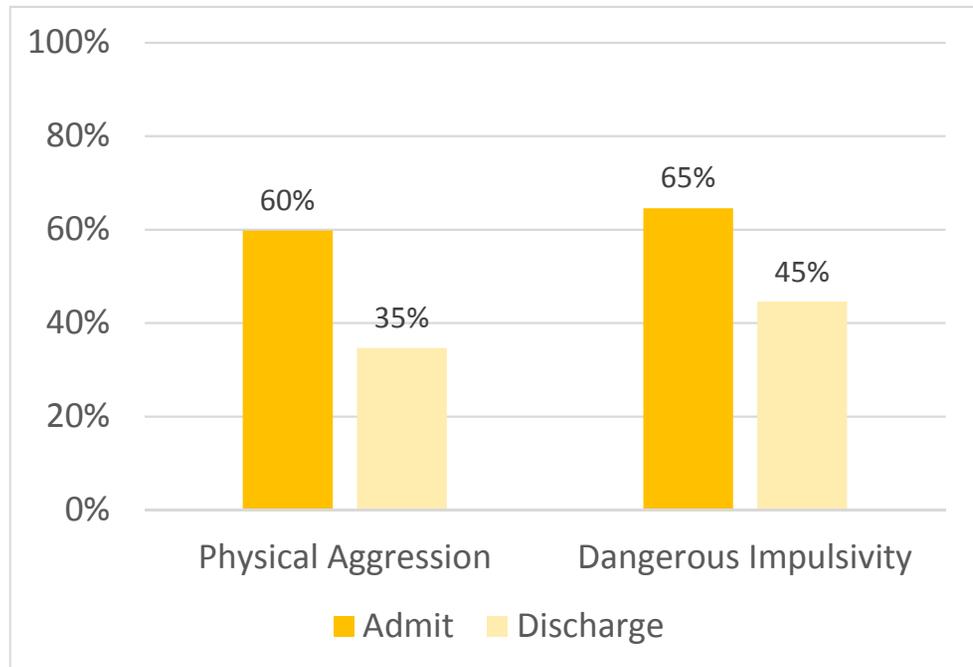
Starlight’s Wraparound TEAMMATES program, in operation since 2013, has served 185 children and youth with serious emotional and behavior issues that often put their placement at home at risk. In the last two years, 72% of the children admitted were referred by the Santa Clara County Probation Department, Juvenile Services (Probation) and 28% by Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFCS). The children and youth have a range of behavioral health care issues and they and their families need the kinds of individualized and comprehensive support that wraparound offers. Starlight’s Wraparound team does “whatever it takes” to help reduce the children’s symptoms and suffering related to serious emotional disturbance, while increasing the family’s strength and capacity to keep their children in home, at school and out of trouble. This **BRIEF REPORT** presents outcomes across the last two years (Jan 2015 - Dec 2016). Data for prior periods is also available upon request.

### **Participants:**

In the two years covered by this report, 122 children and youth participated in Wraparound; of the 67 (55%) referred by Probation, 76% were male and 24% female; of the 55 (45%) referred by DFCS, 51% were male and 49% female. Seventy-nine percent identified as Latino or Hispanic, 7% as Black or African American, 7% White, and 7% as other or unknown, with little difference by the source of referral. The median age at admission of children or youth referred by Probation was 16 years of age, and the median age at admit of children or youth referred by DFCS was 12 years of age.

Among DFCS-referred children and youth, the most common primary diagnoses were internalizing disorders affecting mood (65% of children and youth) such as adjustment disorders and depressive disorders; and, 33% had externalizing conditions such as disruptive behavior disorders. While close to same proportions of Probation-referred youth had an internalizing condition (60%), including depression and anxiety, more also externalized their suffering (55%), which includes impulse control, disruptive behavior and conduct disorders.

**% Children or Youth  
With Significant Risk**  
*(improvement is a decrease  
between admission and discharge)*



Upon admission, 59% of the children and youth were at significant risk of aggressive behavior toward others; 64% exhibited dangerously impulsive behavior; 40% were involved with gangs; 48% suffered from impaired functioning due to psychological trauma; and, 41% had impaired functioning due to substance use.

Remarkably, most (86%) were living at home with such high risk, thus the need for wraparound to prevent out-of-home placements. Their parents or caregivers also faced challenges such as severe poverty (30%); the need to improve parenting skills (48%); domestic violence (18%); mental illness (16%); and, substance abuse (12%).

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### *Maintaining Engagement*

*Children and youth referred by Probation were more likely to have treatment interrupted by incarcerations. Thanks to the persistence of Starlight Wraparound staff members in maintaining communication with families, probation officers and, when possible, the youth themselves, Starlight's youth with multiple detentions were able to return to treatment!*

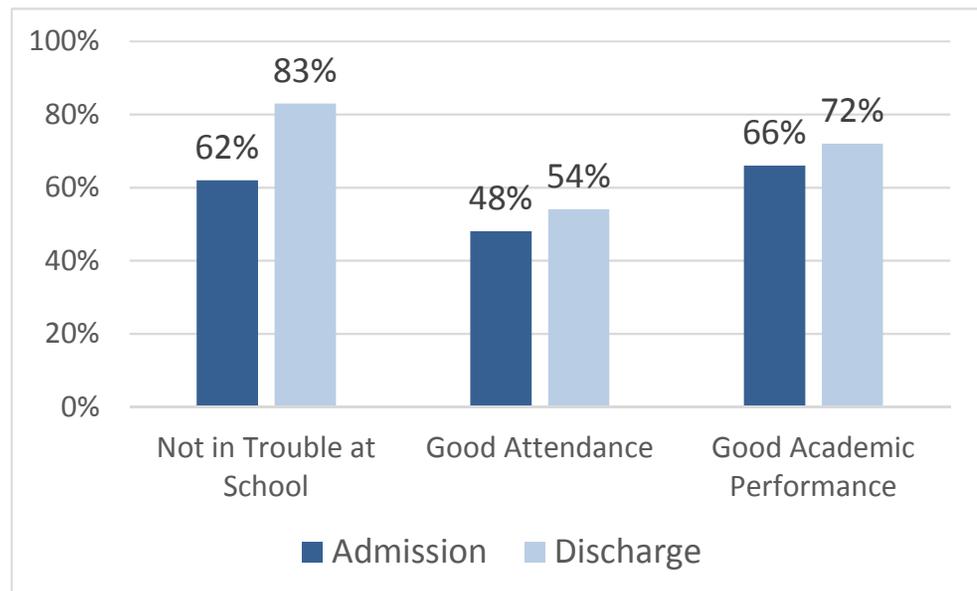
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- ✚ Children and youth referred by Probation were more likely to be discharged and then reenrolled multiple times (19% of Probation-referred children had multiple enrollments, as opposed to 3% of DFCS referred children and youth). Treatment interruptions in the probation population were primarily (82%) related to probation (status) violations.
- ✚ Although Probation-referred children and youth were more likely to have multiple enrollments, their total average length of stay was shorter than DFCS-referred clients. Probation-referred discharges had an average stay of about 6 months, while DFCS-referred discharges had an average stay of about a year. <sup>i</sup>

### **Outcomes:**

- ✚ **Reduced high-risk behavior.** As can be seen on the chart on the first page, the percent of children and youth at risk of physical aggression toward others and dangerous impulsivity decreased significantly between admission and discharge (physical aggression: admit 60% of children and youth, discharge 35%; dangerous impulsivity: admit 65% of children and youth, discharge 45%). Other risk areas, including gang involvement, psychological trauma and substance abuse also had positive trends. <sup>ii</sup>
- ✚ **Reduce school behavior problems.** The proportion of children and youth who were in trouble at school (disciplinary actions, including trancies, suspensions and expulsions) declined during treatment. The chart below shows the proportion of those not in trouble at school increased between admit and discharge (Admit: 62%, Discharge 83%). The students' school attendance and academic performance also had a positive trend.

**% Children or Youth  
Doing Well at School  
(improvement is an increase  
between admission and discharge)**



## Outcomes, Cont'd:

Overall, **82% made progress toward their treatment goals**, regardless of their after care plan such as whether they were going into lower or higher levels of care.

Overall, **66% of children and youth had strong outcomes** meaning they both made progress toward their treatment goals and were able to discharge to a lower intensity of services. Nearly all (95%) DFCS-referred children and youth and their families achieved strong outcomes, and a good number (42%) of probation-referred youth also did so (both criteria met).

DFCS and probation successfully closed out many of Starlight's Wraparound cases in their respective systems by the time the children/youth were ready for discharge from Starlight's program. The team was also able to sustain the same proportion of children/youth in family homes from admission to discharge, a real win for such high-risk situations and families impacted by so many challenges!

Satisfied families! Participants are surveyed routinely on their satisfaction with Starlight Wraparound services. **A large majority (92%) of caregivers and youth (88%) were satisfied overall.**

*Some specific indicators from caregivers:*

- ... received the right services? 96%
- ... helped to choose treatment goals? 91%
- ... felt treated with respect? 97%

*Some specific indicators from youth's perspectives:*

- ... improved ability to cope? 83%
- ... helped to choose treatment goals? 91%
- ... getting along better with family? 93%

### Conclusion:

Starlight's Wraparound TEAMMATES program represents an intensive service process that effectively engages the families of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and behavioral issues to forge a future that is safer, healthier and less system-involved. Wraparound pulls everyone together to support the children, youth and their families. With this support, families become stronger and more resilient, and children and youth experience more stability and connection within their family and community and greater emotional and behavioral self-control.

*The Starlight team is very proud to be part of this healing process with their agency partners, and looks forward to offering Wraparound services to future children, youth and their families in need!*

<sup>i</sup> 1. There are reasons for this difference having to do with the preferred uses of wraparound with high-risk youths by the county's Probation Department: a) probation-referred clients are not eligible for Wraparound after they turn 18, at which time they are referred to Full Service Partnerships (FSP) or some other program; b) the goal of Wraparound for Probation-referred clients is graduating from probation; once their case closed, they graduate from Wraparound and are referred to other types of mental health care; and, c) the expectation of the Probation Department in Santa Clara County is that Wraparound be used only for short periods, when there is greatest risk.

<sup>ii</sup> The percent of children and youth with significant risk, admit to discharge:

	Admit	Discharge
Physical Aggression*	60%	35%
Dangerous Impulsivity*	65%	45%
Impaired Independent Living Skills	23%	17%
Gang Involvement	41%	37%
Impaired Functioning due to Psychological Trauma	49%	46%
Running Away	32%	27%

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Impaired Functioning due to Substance Abuse

41%

34%

\*Statistically significant improvement