

## ABSTRACT

*Kalamazoo Wraps* is a partnership inclusive of families, youth and representatives from all child and family system stakeholders in Kalamazoo Michigan. With Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services as the fiduciary, *Kalamazoo Wraps* will expand and broaden service capacity utilizing culturally competent practices, ensure individualized service plans, and empower children with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

The proposed project, *Kalamazoo Wraps*, intends to build upon the system of care work begun by the county in 1996, and to transform the current model of practice from an intra-system categorical model to *the* means of delivering supports and services throughout Kalamazoo County, braiding responsibility, accountability and authority across systems. System outcomes will include: 1) Evidence-Based Practices Implemented, 2) Cross System Use of Same Screening/Treatment/Support Protocols, 3) Individualized Wraparound Model Implemented Cross Systems for all Children with SED and their Families, 4) Specialized Cultural/Linguistic Practices Implemented, 5) Family/Youth Partnerships Realized Across Systems, 6) Extensive Cross System Training, and 7) A Strong County Wide System of Care Infrastructure in place. Family advocates will serve as co-leaders of the project on all levels (e.g., oversight, work group, administration), and will serve as Care Coordinators in the cross system Wraparound service model. A Family Resource Center will be developed to support families served by all systems.

All children with SED, ages 0-21, will gain from the cross system improvement components of the project. The following four priority populations, who have traditionally been the most challenging to serve towards successful and sustained positive outcomes, are children/youth with SED, who have: 1) multiple contacts and/or placements within the Juvenile Justice system; 2) complex and long standing learning, behavioral and/or neurobiological issues; 3) co-occurring substance use disorder; and/or 4) involvement with the child welfare system, will receive specific interventions. Minimally 100 children and their families annually will receive project services steeped in system of care values. Evidence-based practices will be implemented to support positive, sustained outcomes for the children served, including Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports, Oregon Parent Management Training, Integrated Co-occurring Treatment for Youth with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders, and Directive Supervision. Relationships with education will be strengthened, resulting in earlier identification of needs and services.

The Evaluation Team, David Hartmann, Ph.D., Rachel Bridges Whaley, Ph.D. and Victoria Curtis, Ph.D., at Western Michigan University Kercher Center for Social Research, is committed to complying with the requirements of the National Evaluation. The team members have extensive training and experience in both quantitative and qualitative research methods and have multiple experiences serving as evaluators for large national evaluation projects related to mental health and children. Kay Hodges, Ph.D., developer of CAFAS will consult to the project.