

April/May 2010

Kalamazoo Wraps News

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH COLLABORATION

Join Us For Kalamazoo Wraps' 5th Annual National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Carnival Thursday, May 6, 2010



Kalamazoo Wraps
System of Care Community

Kids! Bring your families to celebrate at the...

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Carnival!

It's All FREE!!! Entertainment Prizes! Games! Hotdogs! Cotton Candy!

May 6th

Education! 4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Musical Face Painting! Bouncy Castles!

At the
Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
2900 Lake Street

WRAPS

Questions? Call 553-8110

Once again, Kalamazoo Wraps' many system of care community partners will host a community-wide celebration of children's mental health on Thursday, May 6, 2010, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds (2900 Lake Street).

The Carnival is a wonderful event full of entertainment, games, prizes, food and fun, but the most important part of the carnival is what youth and families learn. Education and awareness are the primary goals of the carnival. We strive to:

1. educate the public regarding children's mental health issues.
2. inform the public regarding the services available to youth and families in our community.
3. provide information to youth and families about how to access services.

There are many fun and interesting "experiential learning" opportunities at the Carnival. Karen Galloway, certified OTR at Kinetic Kids, has hosted an "Experiential Classroom" which allows participants to better understand what a typical learning session inside a classroom full of students feels like

for those who have sensory integration issues. (www.kinetickidsot.com)

Michael McLeieer, Certified Firefighter, National Fire Instructor and President of **E.S.C.A.P.E. Inc.** - Kids Fire Prevention & Education, will return to the Carnival this year with Jake "The Fire Dog" and the Fire Safety Trailer to teach fire safety. (www.escapeinc.org www.kidsfireprevention.org www.jakethefiredog.org)

The Carnival provides a relaxed and fun atmosphere for positive interactions between service providers and the public. Last year, 75 people hosted booths of information about their businesses and agencies that provide services for youth and families in Kalamazoo. Establishing relationships and engendering "goodwill" between service providers and the public they serve will be the positive outcomes of a successful event.

Over 1,200 youth and family members attended last year's carnival! Who knows how many more will discover Kalamazoo's FREE carnival to celebrate children's mental health this year?!

If you or your organization would like to participate in the 2010 Carnival, contact Renee Huff at 269-553-8123.

Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this amazing community event and to make a difference in the lives of youth and families in Kalamazoo!



Kalamazoo Wraps
Comunidad de Sistemas de Cuidado

¡Niños! Traigan sus familias para celebrar el...

¡Carnaval Para el Día Nacional de Salud Mental para Niños!

6 de Mayo

4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
2900 Lake Street

¿Preguntas? Llame 553-8110

Kalamazoo Wraps' Parent Advisory Group (PAG)

By Andy Agate, Parent Advisory Group Chair

Putting it in Writing

I would like to thank Kathy Howard and Mackenzie Hunter, both from Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK), for their time and effort put into creating the "User Manual" for Calling All Youth (CAY) and the Parent Advisory Group (PAG).

At our last meeting we read through a little more than half of the 15 pages that were put together and were very pleased at how well thought out and put together it is.

As we reviewed the document together, everyone did a great job of making constructive suggestions and adjustments to what was presented. I believe the majority of it was left untouched, as a testament to how well these two ladies completed this undertaking.

I for one, look forward to reviewing the rest of it and working with the other parents to make our manual as user friendly for everyone as possible. These interactions are reminiscent of when we were working on our Mission Statement.

Although somewhat time consuming and maybe a little tiring at times, it was equally rewarding and satisfying when we saw the final outcome of a project well done.

A User Manual was something that was often talked about but never started, for one reason or another, and it appears the timing and people involved have come together at last.

This document encompasses everything from our Mission Statements and requirements for becoming a member of PAG or CAY, to how we will be conducting meetings, meeting content, and the stipend policy pertaining to both groups.

All in all, this should make both groups stronger, more organized, and more productive.

Thanks again to both of these ladies, not only for the User Manual, but everything they do in regards to Calling All Youth and the Parent Advisory Group.

To learn more about PAG, please contact Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK) 269-343-5896.

Calling All Youth

May is bringing in more than the just the sunshine, as Kalamazoo Wraps' youth advisory board, Calling All Youth (CAY), begins preparing for National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day May 6, 2010!

Don't forget to stop by the CAY booth at the Kalamazoo Wraps, 5th annual, National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Carnival on May 6th. CAY members will be sharing information about CAY and how to get involved, as well as facilitating fun (and educational!) activities centered on children's mental health. We can't wait to see you there!

May is mental health month and CAY members have been creating centerpieces for another special event in May, the annual KCMHSAS Mental Health Breakfast, on Friday, May 14. The event celebrates the successes of individuals with mental health challenges. It's free to attend and open to the public.

The centerpieces are decoupaged, seven and a half inch tall, cylinder vases that feature inspirational words and quotes about resilience and recovery. At the Breakfast, each vase will have a (battery operated) tea light, which alternates colors, placed inside to illuminate the beautiful artwork. When the Breakfast ends, the vases will be donated to the adult consumers who attend the event for the purpose of passing along hope in our community.

CAY members are excited about the event and are proud to be contributing in such a meaningful way. Come check out their work at the Mental Health Breakfast on Sunday, March 14th, 9:30 - 12:00 p.m., at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo. (continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

PARENT ADVISORY GROUP...	2
CALLING ALL YOUTH...	2-3
EVALUATION...	3
TRAINING...	4
CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE...	5
COMMUNITY EVENTS...	6-7

The Lives Of Their Families So That They Have The Opportunity To Reach Their Full Potential.

Calling All Youth

Additionally, several members of CAY have agreed to participate in the making of anti-stigma film centered on the importance of young people using their voices to promote change in their individual lives and in the greater community. We are thrilled for this opportunity to mobilize youth voice and perspective and feel honored that these young people are willing to share their stories of strength, courage, and perseverance with us. This video will be shown sometime in late May, with more details to come.

Check out our website at www.kalamazoowraps.com in early April for the date and location of this showing for the community.

If you'd like to learn more about Calling All Youth, please contact Mackenzie Hunter, Youth Coordinator for Kalamazoo Wraps at Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK) MackenzieH@askforkids.org or 269-343-5896.

Evaluation

We now have a new, improved website!

This updated website includes search features, as well as the following components:

- Archived Reports
- Current Year Reports
- How Reporting Works
- Our Team
- Presentations & Trainings

Speaking of presentations, Evaluation Team members, Ladel Lewis and Amy Helmuth, just delivered a presentation (authored primarily by Carolyn Sullins) titled ***Indications of Intensified Stigma of Mental Illness Among African Americans***. The presentation suggests that African Americans should be a focus of anti-stigma efforts, which is what our youth group is now proudly working on.

We will give a similar but more detailed presentation in Washington D.C. this summer. Both the presentations, and numerous ones from the past, will be included on this new website. So be sure to stop by frequently!

The website also includes an on-line version of the Annual Report. This report uses data collected since 2006 from the families in our Outcome Study, as well as various other sources of information from schools and other agencies, to help answer the bottom line question: How well is the system of care working? Of course the System of Care involves so many different areas, so there are numerous questions about a wide variety of issues answered!

Chances are, this report won't answer all your questions. But maybe we can answer more of them. If you have a question about how well any particular aspect of the System of Care is working, please contact us and we'll see if and how we can answer it. Browsing our website will give you some ideas on what types of information we collect and what questions we have already begun to answer.

Again, a big thank you to all the participants in the study who have given their time to answer our questions – some year after year -- about their families and about their experiences with the Kalamazoo Wraps System of Care!

Check us out at www.KalamazooWrapsEvaluation.org



Evaluation Team Member, Ladel Lewis, takes a bite out of the City of Portage's "Mr. Crispy" (the celery stalk) at the 2009 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Carnival.

Training

The following article was written by Susan Davis, Mobile Crisis Response Supervisor at Family & Children's Services. Susan is a founding member of the Training and Evidence Based Practices Workgroup.

As I reflected on my experience as a community member of the Training and Evidence Based Practices Workgroup, which originated from Kalamazoo Wraps, I looked at two things: the opportunities and education it has provided to me and the opportunities that have been offered to our community.

I have had the opportunity to work with professionals from different areas, parents and even youth. It is a collaborative effort. This has helped me to look at the training needs from the perspective of others, not just those that I supervise or who work at Family & Children's Services. Who better to help with the training of our community than the parents and youth that have been impacted by services?

I have learned what it means to be part of a system that collaborates with multiple partners as the training needs of all can be met. This committee has reached out to professionals in multiple fields, parents, and youth. How better to bring a community together than to involve parents, youth, DHS, schools, court, mental health providers, providers of recreational activities, and the faith based community?

The training that has been offered is not only what the workgroup thinks is needed, rather what is offered is what the community has asked for. This Workgroup also values offering trainings that are evidence based practices or techniques that are proven to be effective, leading to the best opportunities for success.

I believe that the past few years have been the start of long term change in our community!

Would you like to participate on the Training Workgroup? Or, do you have some thoughts about training needs for our Kalamazoo Wraps community? If you answered yes to either of these questions, please contact Rebecca Clore, Community Trainer at 553-8110 or by e-mail at rclore@kazooomh.org and provide your input today. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., at KCMHSAS Services for Children & Families office, 432 West Crosstown Parkway.

Thank You!

Kalamazoo Wraps measures the success of our initiative to improve services for youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families, by the results of our **National Outcome Study**, conducted by the Evaluation Team at Western Michigan University. The Evaluation Team would like to give a special thank you to our community partners that have donated gifts of appreciation to families involved in the Study who are approaching their 36 month interview.

Thank you for supporting Youth and Families in Kalamazoo!

Alpha Massage: www.alphamassage.com 269-808-6223

Bounceland: www.BounceLandParty.com 269-353-0940

Celebration Cinema: www.celebrationcinema.com 269-324-7469

Craigs Cruisers Family Fun Centers: www.CraigsCruisers.com 616-530-2900

LittleCaesars: www.LittleCaesars.com (check for local listings :-)

Natures's Dance: www.NaturesDance.us 269-324-0795

Rejuvenate: 269-321-3690 "Rejuvenate your mind, body and soul through the power of relaxation." DaKetia Thomas, Massage Therapist.

Alpha
Massage



RESPECTING DIFFERENCES: **The Power of Forgiveness**

Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza will share her story of hope and forgiveness with the Kalamazoo community on Thursday, April 22nd (1:30 and 7:00 pm) and Friday, April 23 (9:00 am). Immaculée, a New York Times Best Selling Author, is appearing courtesy of this year's **Respecting Differences** program.

The **Respecting Differences** program is an annual diversity event sponsored by Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Human Resource Management Association (KHRMA), Western Michigan University, the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, Kalamazoo Wraps and other community partners. Immaculée's appearance at this year's event is made possible through collaboration with the Fetzer Institute.

During the 1994 Rwandan genocide Immaculée and seven other women spent 91 days hiding silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor's house. She emerged to find her family had been brutally murdered.

Knowing she would have to overcome immeasurable odds without her family and with her country destroyed, she spent her time in that tiny bathroom teaching herself English with only The Bible and a dictionary. Later she would come face to face with the killer of her mother and her brother and say the unthinkable, "I forgive you."

Since this ordeal, Immaculée Ilibagiza has written three books and created the Left to Tell Charitable Fund. She has also worked with the United Nations and has been recognized and honored with numerous humanitarian awards including the 2007 Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace. Today, she is regarded as one of the world's leading speakers on peace, faith, and forgiveness.

This year's **Respecting Differences** daytime presentations will take place at the State Theatre on Burdick Street in Kalamazoo. The evening talk will be at the Kalamazoo Central High School Auditorium. **All events are free and open to the public.**

Come hear this remarkable woman at this year's **Respecting Differences** event.

Thursday, April 22

1:30 p.m. The State Theatre Downtown Mall on Burdick Street

7:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Central High School 2432 N. Drake Road (Sponsored by the Fetzer Institute. Please RSVP for this event only at www.fetzer.org or toll free at 1-888-849-4889.)

Friday, April 23

9:00 a.m. The State Theatre Downtown Mall on Burdick Street

Kalamazoo Wraps Cultural and Linguistic Competency (CLC) Workgroup has been part of the planning of this important event. To learn more about the workgroup, or to volunteer, please contact Sharon Roepke at sroepke@kazoozcmh.org.



Community Events

May Is Mental Health Month

Kalamazoo cares about the mental health of its community members and we'll celebrate May as Mental Health Month in several ways.

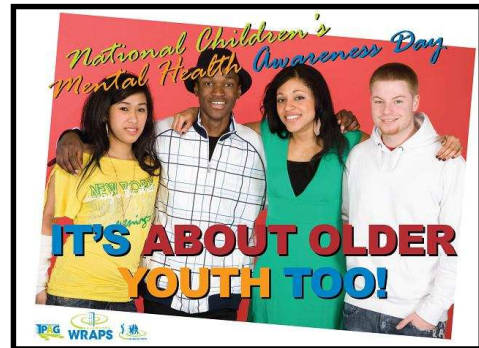
National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is Thursday, May 6.

Don't miss *Kalamazoo Wraps*, 5th Annual, National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Carnival, from 4 pm - 7 pm, at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street.

It's about older youth too and teens won't want to miss it.

The Carnival has fun for everyone, from 1 –100!

The Carnival is FREE to attend and OPEN to the public.



Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

will hold its Annual Mental Health Breakfast

Friday, May 14, 9:30 am - 11:00 am, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 100 W Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo.

The Annual KCMHSAS Breakfast is an opportunity for individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, youth with serious emotional disturbances (and their families), and individuals with substance use disorders to share information with others.

Guest Speaker: Antonio Lambert

“Take pride in the title *Peer Support Specialist*”

The Mental Health Breakfast is a community-wide celebration.

The event is FREE to attend and OPEN to the public.

Please call 269-553-8000 for more details.


Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

Annual Mental Health Breakfast

Friday, May 14, 2010
9:30 am – 11:00 am
RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL
100 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo

The Annual KCMHSAS Breakfast is an opportunity for individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, youth with serious emotional disturbances (and their families), and individuals with substance use disorders to share information with others.

Guest Speaker: Antonio Lambert
“Take pride in the title *Peer Support Specialist*”



May Is Mental Health Month

KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY Mental Health Substance Abuse Services Celebrate with us!

The Mental Health Breakfast is a community-wide celebration. The event is FREE to attend and OPEN to the public. Please call 269-553-8000 for more details.

****Event Begins Promptly at 9:30 am****

The 4th Annual Mental Health Awareness Festival

will be held on Friday, May 14, (immediately following the Mental Health Breakfast) 11 am - 2 pm, in Bronson Park (First Presbyterian Church is the ‘rain location’).

The Mental Health Awareness Festival (MHAF) is yearly peer run event, hosted by Power Branch in May, Mental Health Awareness Month.

The Festival is intended to educate the general public, as well as service providers, supporters, family, peer specialists, and people that receive mental health services.

Mark your calendars and come join us for education, inspiration and a better understanding of mental health issues and the services available in our community.



Save the Date!

Kalamazoo Service Providers Invite Leaders within the Faith-based Community
to a special presentation and discussion:

Working Together Creating Better Outcomes for Youth and Families

Thursday, June 3, 2010

9:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo Public Library's Van Deusen Room

(Ample parking is available on the street and in the South Street ramp.)

Please plan to join leaders within Kalamazoo's faith-based organizations and mental health care providers from Kalamazoo Community Mental Health, Gryphon Place and Family & Children's Services for a unique opportunity to learn about how collaboration can result in better outcomes for youth and families.

This event welcomes Senior Clerics, as well as all those who serve within faith-based organizations: Secretaries, Administrators, Youth Pastors, Music and Choir Directors, Janitorial and Maintenance Staff, Day-care and Nursery Staff.

Agenda

- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Registration and Refreshments
- 9:30 am - 11:00 am Strengthening our System of Care
- 11:00 am - 11:15 am Break
- 11:15 am - 12:00 pm Suicide Prevention/Gatekeeper Training

****A detailed registration form will be available in mid-April at
www.kalamazoowraps.com ****

Questions? Phone 269-381-1510

This event is proudly sponsored by these Kalamazoo System of Care Partners:



Advocacy Services for Kids
414 E. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**The Family Resource Center for
KALAMAZOO WRAPS**

Giant Moon-Jump
Castles!

Prizes!

Entertainment!

Hotdogs &
Cotton Candy!

**National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day
CARNIVAL!**

Thursday, May 6, 2010, 4 - 7 pm, Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street

Music!

Face Painting!

It's Completely FREE!

Education!

Games for Kids
of All Ages!

Come Have Fun And Bring Your Friends!