



Kalamazoo Wraps News

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH COLLABORATION

April/May 2007

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Tuesday, May 8, 2007, is the 2nd annual National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

Kalamazoo Wraps will host an event with a carnival theme and an anti-stigma message, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at 3299 Gull Road, in the Nazareth Georgian Room, Walnut Room, and side lawn.

The day is absolutely FREE and will feature a giant "bouncy castle", an amazing story-teller, face painting, games and activities for kids of every age, hotdogs, popcorn, and cotton candy!

In addition, there will be many opportunities to learn more about children's mental health services, a sensory integration experience, and the Kalamazoo Wraps initiative.

Representatives from other youth serving agencies will also take part in the day by sharing information and answering questions. This is an opportunity for our community and entire system of care to celebrate children's mental health.



A system of care for children's mental health is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that are organized to meet the challenges of youth with serious mental health needs.

Families and youth work in partnership with public and private organizations to ensure services and supports are effective, build on the strengths of individuals, and address each person's cultural and linguistic needs.

It has been proven that community-based care leads to meaningful improvements for youth with serious mental health needs. Youth with serious mental health needs make substantial improvements at home, school, and in the community when served through a system of care that provides

community-based services.

50 years ago, the National Mental Health Association first celebrated "May Is Mental Health Month".

Come celebrate how far we've come and be a part of the improvements being made for the future!

What is Kalamazoo Wraps?

Kalamazoo Wraps is a county-wide initiative to improve mental health services for youth. It is based on a "System of Care" philosophy where the care of youth is family-driven, youth-guided and culturally competent. It also relies on open and constant communication between service providers, and community and natural supports. The initiative is being supported through

a six-year federal grant. The grant's six year cycle began in October of 2005.

Kalamazoo Wraps supports several evidence-based and promising practices in our county. This is a community initiative and we need your participation for success.

Kalamazoo Wraps is just in the beginning stages of implementation and is actively seeking partici-

pation and input from families, service providers, and community members.

There are many ways for you to become involved. For more information, please contact our Project Directors:

Michelle Houtrow:
mhoutrow@kazooemh.org
553-8110

Dianne Shaffer:
diannes@askforkids.org
343-5896

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Our Vision: To Improve The Lives of Youth With Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) And



Parent Involvement

The Kalamazoo Wraps Parent Advisory Group is up and running! The Parent Advisory Group has a responsibility to provide input to other workgroups and committees, respond to policy-makers' requests, and provide a family voice as new programs are developed in Kalamazoo Wraps. Because Kalamazoo Wraps is a family-driven process, we will also identify our own priorities and work to see them implemented. We have scheduled Peter Dams, of Dams & Associates, for the next few meetings to facilitate organizing the Parent Advisory Group into a working subcommittee of the Kalamazoo Wraps project. Mr. Dams will help us develop a strategic plan, including our mission statement, our vision for the future, our goals, and the activities we want to undertake in the coming months.

Regular meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6-7:30 p.m.; however, for our time with Peter Dams, we will need to schedule an additional half hour. Therefore, for the meetings in March and April, please call Advocacy Services for Kids at 343-5896 for the correct starting time. We meet at the Gilmore Education Center of Bronson Hospital, and we welcome all parents who want to have a voice in making positive changes in our mental health system of care through the Kalamazoo Wraps project. A meal and child care are provided; please call ASK at 343-5896 if you want to attend so we can plan accordingly.

Please contact Kay Emery, Family Involvement Coordinator, at 343-5896, or e-mail at Kaylenee@askforkids.org

HOW

WONDERFUL IT IS
THAT NOBODY
NEED WAIT
A SINGLE
MOMENT
BEFORE STARTING
TO IMPROVE THE
WORLD.

— ANNE FRANK

Youth at Work

Calling All Youth is currently receiving extensive training aimed at improving youths' effectiveness as agents of systems change.

These trainings, provided by Magical Rain and Prevention Works, are addressing communication, teamwork, professionalism, and a host of other skills. This will continue in the following weeks, after which the Calling All Youth board will continue with strategic planning.

The skills being taught at our meetings will be applicable in many different settings: socially, academically, and professionally, and will benefit these youth for the rest of their lives. They will assist our youth in obtaining and maintaining employment, while improving their relationships with classmates, teachers, parents and employers.

After the trainings are complete, the larger Calling All Youth membership will continue to meet for activities and discussions geared toward group cohesiveness and developing strategies for effective youth involvement in Kalamazoo Wraps.

Meetings are currently held: 1st and 3rd Fridays, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

New members are welcome!

Meetings are appropriate for ages 13 years and up. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. The Calling All Youth meeting schedule is subject to change.

To protect the privacy and safety of our youth, and to ensure the meeting schedule has not changed, please contact Alex Unwin, Kalamazoo Wraps Youth Coordinator, at Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK) for meeting dates, times, and locations, prior to attending, at alexu@askforkids.org or 343-5896.



Evaluation

How can you evaluate an evaluation? The Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation list four qualities: **Utility**, **Feasibility**, **Propriety**, and **Accuracy**.

Utility means that the information collected must be useful in decision-making.

Feasibility means that the evaluation can be done within the time and resources available.

Propriety means that the evaluation is conducted in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of the participants and stakeholders.

Accuracy means that the data are collected, analyzed, and interpreted correctly.

Fulfilling all four of these standards requires

a challenging balancing act. For example, we must conduct each of our baseline interviews within 30 days of a family starting services, so we can *accurately* see how they were doing before treatment was well underway. At the same time, we must make sure this is *feasible* for the clinicians and the families. A big thank you to all who've helped us strive for these standards, as participants, clinicians, or workgroup members! New members welcome!

The Evaluation Workgroup meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., at Family & Children's Services. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 12, 6-7:30 p.m.

Please contact Carolyn Sullins at 387-3600 or Carolyn.sullins@wmich.edu



WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HELP
PLAN EVENTS

AND SPREAD
THE WORD
ABOUT
KALAMAZOO
WRAPS?
JOIN OUR
SOCIAL
MARKETING

GROUP!
CALL RENÉE
553-8123

Training News

The people behind Kalamazoo Wraps have been busy training so far this year. In October, November, and December of 2006, over 300 community members and organizations participated in training activities through the Kalamazoo Wraps initiative.

The trainings that were offered during this time ranged from "What is Kalamazoo Wraps?" to "Help! These Kids Are Driving Me Crazy!" to CAFAS training for service providers.

More training is coming your way! Be on the look out for A LOT of training opportunities this spring and summer. Even better, we hope to have the Kalamazoo Wraps website up and running soon so that you can easily access training information from the web.

Kalamazoo Wraps is focused on anti-stigma efforts here in Kalamazoo. The best tool to fight stigma is knowledge, which means the Training Workgroup will play a

key role in this effort. A message we hope to drive home is "It's okay to ask for help."

One of the "promising practices" Kalamazoo Wraps has implemented is Positive Behavior Support (PBS). It's a system that helps school staff define, teach, monitor, and reward appropriate student behavior to create a positive school climate. Strategies are also used to limit the effects of problem behaviors and to help involve families in decision-making.

Currently, PBS is being implemented in 30 Kalamazoo County Schools.

To learn more about PBS, attend the special orientation on May 14, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Chenery Auditorium (see calendar of events on page 7).

For more information on training, the Training Workgroup, or to provide feedback, please contact Rebecca Clore, Kalamazoo Wraps Community Trainer, at rclore@kazooemh.org or by telephone at 553-8110.



Community Calendar April 2007

Saturday, 4/1, 10:00 a.m. The Kalamazoo Public Library Preschool Performance Series. A series of performances, just for preschoolers, is offered the first Saturday of each month, October - April, at 10:00 a.m. Seating is limited. Tickets for free events can be reserved by calling 269-373-7990 or 800-772-3370 on the day before the event, beginning at 9 a.m. Free tickets are limited to 4 per household or group. Seats that are not occupied ten (10) minutes before show time will be released to other guests.

Saturday, 4/1 through 4/14, View During Open Hours of the Portage District Library, "Point of View: A Look at the Creative Process", this exhibit features works by Kalamazoo Book Arts Center members; the MRC Artists' Co-op; Mary Whalen and students; Ted Cavenaugh; plus a Kalamazoo Institute of Arts ARTreach exhibit, *Face-to-Face: People Into Portraits*. Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane.

Saturday, 4/5 through 4/28, National Public Radio (NPR), StoryCorps, a national initiative to document everyday history and the unique stories of America, will arrive in Kalamazoo in early April to collect the stories of Kalamazoo's residents as part of the program's cross-country tour. The StoryCorps mobile recording booth, contained in an Airstream trailer, will be parked in downtown Kalamazoo from April 5-April 28th for four weeks. The MobileBooth will be open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekends. Those interested in signing up for interviews during the StoryCorps Kalamazoo residency may do so after March 22nd by calling 800-850-4406 toll free or by going online at www.storycorps.net to register. This project is sponsored nationally by NPR, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and AT&T.

Monday, 4/18, 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Part One of a Free 12-Hour Training Series: "Promoting the Social and Emotional Health of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers". Specifically geared toward day care providers, and parents are welcome to attend. Participants will learn about, observe and begin to understand and recognize critical social and emotional milestones of children ages 0-5. Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, 418 W Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI Questions? Call Julie Helmer at KCMHSAS 553-8126. Register with Cindy at Child Care Resources, 349-3296, ext 244, or register at www.WorkFamilySolutions.com (This class is a prerequisite for all the other classes—you must have this one first.) Snacks will be provided. (This series of classes will be repeated in Sept. of '07.)

Wednesday, 4/25, 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Class Two of a Free 12-Hour Training Series: "Preventing and Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors". Specifically geared toward day care providers, and parents are welcome to attend. (You must have already attended the first class: "Promoting the Social and Emotional Health of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers".) Do you have children in your care who don't seem to listen, hit other children or have other behavior issues? Learn some general and specific strategies for working with these children and others. KCMHSAS, 418 W Kalamazoo Ave. Questions? Call Julie Helmer at KCMHSAS, 553-8126. Register with Cindy at Child Care Resources, 349-3296, ext. 244, or register at www.WorkFamilySolutions.com. Light snacks will be provided. (This series of classes will be repeated in September 2007.)

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Youth Arts Corp (YAC) program encourages at-risk youth, aged 10-15, to participate in the arts as an alternative to delinquent or negative activities. The program consists of classes in photography, poetry, sculpture, drama, and multimedia music production. The program involves representatives from the juvenile justice system, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo Public Schools, the youth, community artists, parents/guardians, and other social service organizations. The YAC has increased youths' knowledge and skills, their interest in art activities, and their feelings of self-worth. The participants have also established a good working relationship with their adult role models. None of the participants displayed delinquent behavior at the Boys and Girls Club during their involvement in the program. For more information, contact Maria Suszynski, Participating Arts Director of YAC, 915 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, 269-349-4485 x102.

Wednesday, 5/2 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Class Three of a Free 12-Hour Training Series: “Conflict Resolution”. Specifically geared toward day care providers, and parents are welcome to attend. (You must have already attended the first class: “Promoting the Social and Emotional Health of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers”.) Learn about a simple-to-use conflict resolution technique aimed at children ages 18 months to six years. You will be able to teach the children this technique, and as they use it more and more they will need your support less and less to help resolve their conflicts. KCMHSAS, 418 W Kalamazoo Ave. Questions? Call Julie Helmer at KCMHSAS, 553-8126. Register with Cindy at Child Care Resources, 349-3296, ext. 244, or register at www.WorkFamilySolutions.com. Light snacks will be provided. (This series of classes will repeat in Sept. of '07.)

Friday, 5/4, 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Annual Mental Health Breakfast. Come and celebrate mental health and enjoy breakfast with those who receive and provide mental health services here in Kalamazoo. Special speakers. 3299 Gull Road, Nazareth Georgian Room.

Saturday, 5/5, 10 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mental Health Awareness Festival Sponsored by the Power Branch and Peers for Wellness and Recovery (the PoWeR group), in coordination with KCMHSAS and InterAct. A peer-to-peer event, at Bronson Park with a "Peer Recovery Movement theme. The day will feature representatives from many peer support groups and special speakers, including Don Cooney are planned to attend. Phone Patrick Kaufmann at 381-3700. Event is funded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Tuesday, 5/8, 3:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day celebration hosted by Kalamazoo Wraps. A carnival theme and anti-stigma message, combined with a bouncy castle, story teller, games, activities and lots of hot dogs, cotton candy and popcorn! It’s all FREE! 3299 Gull Road, Nazareth’s Georgian Room, Walnut Room, and side-lawn. Come join the FUN!!

Wednesday, 5/9, 6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Class Four of a Free 12-Hour Training Series: “Caring for the Caregiver”. Specifically geared toward day care providers, and parents are welcome to attend. (You must have already attended the first class: “Promoting the Social and Emotional Health of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers”.) Learn how to build trust and support healthy relationships with children while taking care of yourself. Connect with your own culture, values and beliefs as they relate to how you care for children. KCMHSAS, 418 W Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo. Questions? Call Julie Helmer at KCMHSAS 553-8126. Register with Cindy at Child Care Resources, 349-3296, ext 244, or register at www.WorkFamilySolutions.com. Light snacks provided. (This series of classes will be repeated in September 2007.)

Monday, 5/14, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. An overview about Positive Behavior Support (PBS) at Chenery Auditorium, 714 South Westnedge Ave. PBS is a system that helps school staff define, teach, monitor, and reward appropriate student behavior to create a positive school climate. Attention is focused on creating a system that helps identify and link students to the level of support they need to be successful. Strategies are also used to limit the effects of problem behaviors and to help involve families in decision-making. PBS is currently implemented in about 30 schools in Kalamazoo County. To Register: Please call Leilani Higa at 553-9310 or by e-mail at lhiga@kresanet.org. On-site child care will be provided for a limited number of children. Please notify Leilani Higa to register your child(ren) for care.

Thursday, 5/24, 1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m. “Walk A Mile In My Shoes” Rally at the State Capitol Building, Lansing. In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, MACMHB and other statewide advocacy agencies are hosting the 3rd annual rally. Consumer representatives will hold county flags and deliver a statement about mental health from the steps of the State Capitol Building. Why we walk a symbolic mile: 1)To increase awareness, Legislators need to know Mental Health Matters, 2)To put an end to the stigma related to mental illness and developmental disabilities, 3)Because Michigan does not have parity (equality) between mental health and physical health care coverage, 4)To promote mental health and wellness, 5)

Great News from Housing Resources

Housing Resources Inc. (HRI) recently received a 2-year grant of \$250,000 per year from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to partner with case management service providers in support of chronically homeless families who meet the HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) qualifying definition of homelessness. This grant has the potential to provide up to 2-year rental subsidies for eligible families.

Eligible families must be involved with a case management agency/service provider in a coordinated, intentional and voluntary effort to support their path to self-sufficiency. HRI will be a partner in this effort by providing housing expertise including conducting a housing search, providing financial assistance for housing (rent subsidy), mediating landlord/client relations, housing inspections, and follow-up. Income eligibility is determined to be those homeless families and children with incomes at or below 30% AMI and those at greatest risk of experiencing long-term homelessness.

A homeless family is defined as:

- As an adult(s) with a biological child(ren) or legal guardianship of a child, who is under 18 or, enrolled in school and expected to graduate by age 19. This includes, but is not limited to grandparents raising grandchildren and women who are pregnant;
- As a family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, with first priority given to those living in:
 - A publicly or privately operated shelter and/or transitional facility designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including those being assisted with hotel vouchers)
 - A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (including living on the streets, in a state park, or automobile)
 - An institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized
- And second priority will be given to those living: doubled up

This project embraces the **Housing First** methodology, which espouses the belief that vulnerable and at-risk homeless families are more responsive to interventions and social services support after they are in their own housing. Rapid re-housing facilitates the move into permanent housing for families and seeks to engage them in a voluntary progressive set of case management activities and a family-centered planning process that moves them toward improved social and economic well being.

HRI also offers services to support to families and individuals through the Family Shelter, the Rickman House, our housing stabilization programs and our permanent affordable housing communities.

For more information regarding this project or any HRI services, please contact Kathy L. Smyser, Program Director, 382-0287, ext. 114, ksmyser@housingresourcesinc.org or Angela Easterday, Housing Services Manager, 382-0287 ext. 113, aeasterday@housingresourcesinc.org.

Kalamazoo Wraps
c/o Advocacy Services for Kids
414 E. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, May 8, 2007

Giant Bouncy
Castle!

Popcorn!

Hotdogs!

Cotton Candy!

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

3299 Gull Road: Nazareth Georgian Room, Walnut Room & Side Lawn

Face Painting!

Story-Telling!

It's Free!

Games for Kids
of All Ages!

Bring Your Friends and Come Celebrate with Kalamazoo Wraps!!