

CRAFT: COMMUNITY OF RECOVERY AIDING FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

BACKGROUND

Olmsted County administers a program entitled CRAFT (Community of Recovery Aiding Families in Transition). CRAFT provides intensive services to chemically dependent pregnant women to protect the lives of their unborn children. The program provides services not offered by other agencies or county programs while supporting the efforts of corrections, social services, child protection, public health, physicians and mental health providers.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) describe a continuum of permanent birth defects caused by maternal consumption of alcohol during pregnancy: which includes, but is not limited to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Approximately 1 percent of children nationwide are believed to suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum.

OLMSTED COUNTY FACTS

- ... Rochester averages six babies a year that are born at less than 28 weeks.
- ... The costs of children born with FASD are not limited to just the staggering costs of complicated births. Children with FASD often grow up with:
 - ... social and emotional problems
 - ... mental illness or substance abuse problems
 - ... difficulty in school
 - ... legal and corrections system involvement



Letter from an adoptive mother:

"My daughter is 10 years old and she has a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) because her birth mother drank alcohol during her pregnancy. Life can be very challenging for her and for our family.

Parenting a child with FASD can be extremely challenging but I am always aware that, as hard as this is for me, life is much more challenging for my daughter. The emotional cost is simply incalculable. How do you measure the pain of a little girl crying because she does not have friends or raging because she does not understand what is being expected of her in a classroom?"

However, a glance at the services we've needed (listed below) might give society an understanding of the financial toll this has taken.

- ... Foster care
- ... Adoption subsidy
- ... PCA services
- ... CADI waiver
- ... Family Support Grant (purchased disability trike, weighted vests and blankets, etc..)
- ... Respite care
- ... Private and school based OT, PT and speech therapy
- ... Medical costs (an often overlooked consequence of FASD is the immune system deficits)
- ... Skills worker
- ... Special education services at school (paraprofessional, IEP services, resource room)
- ... Mental Health service costs (psychiatrist & therapist)
- ... DD case management



CURRENT OUTCOMES DATA:

7/1/13-6/10/14

- 48 = Total number of women served (non-duplicated)
- 77 = Total number of children served (non-duplicated, ages 0-17)
- 10 = Number of women graduated
- 18 = Number of pregnant women admitted to CRAFT
- 10 = Number of live births while enrolled in CRAFT

Toxicology Results at Birth:

	Negative	Positive	Not Tested
Mothers	9	0	1*
Infant	7	1**	2*

* In Q-3 a mother and infant were not tested due to a hospital paperwork error. In Q-4 an infant was not tested due to the meconium specimen being produced during delivery (uncollectable).

** Infant tested positive for THC. Mother was not admitted to CRAFT until eighth month of pregnancy.

NATIONAL RESEARCH:

Research from the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Center for Excellence (SAMHSA) estimates the prevention of one case of FAS saves:

- ... \$130,000 in the first five years of life
- ... \$360,000 in 10 years
- ... \$587,000 in 15 years
- ... more than \$1 million in 30 years, not including incarceration. This estimate does not include cost to society, such as lost productivity, burden on families, and poor quality of life. <http://fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/educationTraining/FASDBASICS/FASDTheBasics.pdf>.
- ... Amendah and colleagues (2011) found that, for a child with identified FAS, incurred health costs were nine times higher than for children without an FASD. Lupton and colleagues (2004) have estimated the lifetime cost of caring for a person with FAS to be at least \$2 million. <http://fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/>
- ... The Lewin group reported in 2003: A child born at 24 weeks, an average age for a premature birth due to chemical usage, can be expected to generate an average \$750,000 in costs. Costs of FAS alone are estimated at between 1 and 5 million dollars per child.

AS OF 9/18/2014:

- 27 = Current number of women enrolled in CRAFT
- 4 = Current number of those women who are pregnant
- 45 = Current number of children enrolled in CRAFT

CRAFT PROGRAM COSTS:

5 years/\$900,000, or \$180,000 annually

CRAFT PROGRAM SAVINGS:

5 years/\$200 Million, or \$40 Million annually

CRAFT ESTIMATED SAVINGS:

- ... Without CRAFT intervention, it is assumed that program participants would have continued using drugs or alcohol during pregnancy, Using the Lewin group estimates, it is not unreasonable to assume that CRAFT saved a minimum of \$11,250,000 in Olmsted County over the last 2 years by insuring safe delivery of 15 chemical free children . On the high end, that cost could exceed \$40 million for the roughly 8 children born to mothers in the program each year. Total savings, even using 2003 estimates, over five years, is extrapolated to \$200,000,000.

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