

March 28, 2022

Chair Schultz and the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee:

Hennepin County Juvenile Probation has partnered with community organizations over the last 11 years to provide High Fidelity Wraparound as part of the Community Based Array of Services. This process has allowed justice involved young people and families to realize a greater sense of community connectedness and self-efficacy while being supported by High Fidelity Wraparound and being placed on probation. Wraparound's foundational principles include the following: family voice and choice, with the youth and family centered and focused in the process; creating a team-based, collaborative approach, that allows for one family plan across a number of system domains; increasing natural supports to include family, friends, community supports, social groups, and faith-based communities to be present for the family once system involvement is gone; individualized to meet the unique needs of each young person and family, and strength-based to build upon what is working well for the youth and family already; culturally aware and competent, gender affirming and gender responsive; youth and family's plans and goals are continuously monitored for quality and allows for adaptations as needed; the wraparound process allows for flexibility, and while there will be situations that arise and adjustments that need to occur, wraparound continues to stand by youth and families during those times, which is a critical component to success.

In Hennepin County, High Fidelity Wraparound has allowed for young people and families to bring together multiple system stakeholders, mental health professionals, school supports, child protection, etc. to work on one plan for a family, and for the youth and family to be successful in navigating multiple system's mandates. This process has allowed youth and families to successfully identify and build their natural supports, while reducing the number of system involved individuals assigned to the family. We have witnessed wraparound increase educational success; connect to mental health resources that include traditional routes such as mental health evaluations, psychiatric care, therapeutic options and non-traditional options such as culturally based forms of mental health healing, mind/body wellness options, and identification of triggers and emotions with creative outlets for self-regulation; support chemical health and substance use; increase options for stable housing and connect individuals to options that support basic needs, while assisting in navigating a multitude of systems; support youth and families through community violence events; help young people to find career options, explore workforce development opportunities and gain employment; support parenting youth; and many, many more impacts. A wraparound facilitator is skilled in knowing a little bit about everything, keeping a team moving in a forward, productive, and positive manner and knowing where to find community supports and/or additional team supports to make sure a youth and family's needs are met.

For young people that do not have traditional family support, High Fidelity Wraparound has allowed young people to form supportive community teams to rely on when probation ends. Probation Offices rely on wraparound for their expertly skilled facilitators that reflect the populations of youth and families that are justice involved and allow for support in cultural connections, language, beliefs, religious celebrations, and customs, etc. The connection between probation officers and FamilyWise High Fidelity Wraparound has been firmly grounded in trust and a collaborative working relationship.

In partnership, we continue to support the High Fidelity Wraparound model as an investment in young people, families, and community.

Sincerely,

Carol Wandersee

Principal Planning Analyst | Community Based Array of Services Coordinator

Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections

Field Services Client Programming Division

Carol.wandersee@hennepin.us | 612 596-8512