

To: Virginia Children's Services Stakeholders

Re: Launch of the Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center

Date: April 24, 2020

For several years, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Office of Children's Services (OCS) have been collaborating to promote the System of Care philosophy statewide through the development and implementation of High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) to serve children and families with complex mental health needs. HFW is an evidence-based practice firmly grounded in System of Care values. A comprehensive review of Wraparound research published in 2017 by Coldiron, Bruns, & Quick noted that in 15 out of 22 controlled studies, positive outcomes in youth being suspended less often, not running away as frequently, living in a lower level of restrictiveness and achieving permanency more often resulted with the use of Wraparound compared to control or comparisons groups without Wraparound.

To support the HFW workforce, the Wraparound Center of Excellence at the Office of Children's Services was established in 2014. Due to the growth of the HFW and the need for a comprehensive framework to ensure the quality and fidelity and to measure statewide outcomes, the **Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center (VWIC)** was created in 2019 through a grant from DBHDS. VWIC is a collaboration between two agencies: United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) and Evidence-based Associates (EBA). VWIC is a model for Virginia's movement toward evidence-based practice workforce development, coaching, fidelity and outcome reporting that includes other cross agency initiatives such as Behavioral Health Enhancement (DMAS/DBHDS), the Families First Prevention Services Act (VDSS) and STEP VA (DBHDS).

Beginning October 1, 2020, the Wraparound Center of Excellence at OCS will no longer be the home of training for HFW. On this date, VWIC will become the statewide entity responsible for workforce training, as well as the development and implementation of measures to ensure quality and fidelity to the HFW model. VWIC will be a centralized hub of HFW data, with a focus on promoting positive outcomes and increasing consistency. This will be especially advantageous as quality outcomes become more of a focus for funders.

Currently, VWIC is looking to partner with HFW provider organizations in a pilot evaluation process. Providers that participate will benefit from fidelity monitoring tools to help HFW providers build skills and deliver high quality wraparound. Research links high fidelity scores with better outcomes for youth and families. These tools include:

- Wraparound Fidelity Index, Short Form (WFI-EZ): A survey for caregivers, youth, HFW facilitators, and other team members to assess quality of, and adherence to principles of the Wraparound process. VWIC will administer surveys for participating provider organizations.
- Document Review and Assessment Tool (DART): A measure of HFW fidelity based on the youth's written case file, also completed by VWIC staff. Results provide specific feedback to agencies regarding which factors to target for improvement to their wraparound program.
- Outcome tracking including average length of stay, reason for transition out of HFW, and the number of youth that are able to remain in the community to prevent acute inpatient stays, residential treatment, entry into foster care, and juvenile justice involvement.
- Coaching and technical assistance
- Access to WrapStat - Online data management and reporting tool for HFW. WrapStat is the “one-stop shop” for web-based data collection that allows providers to monitor system level program outcomes and family/youth demographics.
- Access to Spoke, the online learning management system for HFW training that will allow users access to custom resources and solutions to common HFW process issues.

If you would like to receive an informational webinar or to join VWIC, please contact Brandi Tinsley at btinsley@umfs.org or Joel Walkley at jwalkley@ebanetwork.com. We look forward to your support and partnership as we launch this exciting new chapter in Virginia's System of Care and strive for quality outcomes for youth and families.

Sincerely,

 , LCSW

**Nina Marino, LCSW
Director, Office of Child and Family Services
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services**



**Scott Reiner, Executive Director
Virginia Office of Children's Services**