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newsletter of the One Community, One Family evaluation

Highlights from Evaluation Briefs (2013)

One Community One Family (OCOF), an interagency system of care for young people with emotional and behavioral challenges and their families

This newsletter highlights the findings of five studies regarding the One Community One Family program evaluation update. The five studies cover demographics, symptomatology between enrollment and 6 months, educational functioning at enrollment and 6 months, functional improvement and service satisfaction, and United Families. Study data can be found in greater detail in the full report.

OCOF Demographics

To date, 433 families have entered OCOF, and approximately 130 have enrolled into national evaluation. The average age at the time of enrollment was 11.82 years, which is slightly lower than 2012 when the average age was 12.61 years. At enrollment, more than half of young people lived with a caregiver who had mental health challenges, and slightly fewer than one third were living with a caregiver who was experiencing substance abuse. More than 95% of participating families were Medicaid eligible at enrollment.

Educational Functioning at Enrollment and 6 months in OCOF

More than one third of the students had missed two or more days of school per month. At enrollment, 85% of the caregivers reported that their youth's attendance was affected by behavioral or emotional problems. After six months, only 80% reported the same. At enrollment, 66% of youths had attended more than one school in the past 6 months, which dropped to 33% at 6 months. At enrollment, 62% of children and youth in this sample had an IEP. This increased to 73% at 6 months. Suspension rates decreased slightly from 27% at time of enrollment to 23% at 6 months. During their first 6 months, 87% of the youth received at least passing grades in all subject areas. The school performance of 85% of the youth at enrollment and 76% of the youth at 6 months was negatively affected by their behavioral or emotional problems.

Symptomatology between Enrollment and 6 months

Between enrollment and 6 months, it appears that males showed an increase in strengths, while females showed a decrease in the same area. Young people rate their own strengths higher than their caregivers do. When compared to younger students, older students seemed to show more improvement in behavioral challenges. Age is associated with improvements in externalizing behaviors; as children mature, externalizing behaviors decrease. Gender is also associated with increased strengths, with boys demonstrating more improvements than girls in strengths.

Functional Improvement and Service Satisfaction

To assess change for youth enrolled in care, National Outcomes Measurement System (NOMS) scores were examined between baseline and six months for the following measures: Handling Daily Life; Gets Along with Family; Gets Along with Friends; Able to Cope. The data indicates improvement in all areas, but statistically significant improvement only for Handling Daily Life and Ability to Cope.

The following question topics were used to assess service satisfaction: Feel Respected; Got to Choose My Services; Staff Stuck with Me; Got Services I Needed; Overall Satisfaction. The data showed that over 87% of youth agreed.

United Family

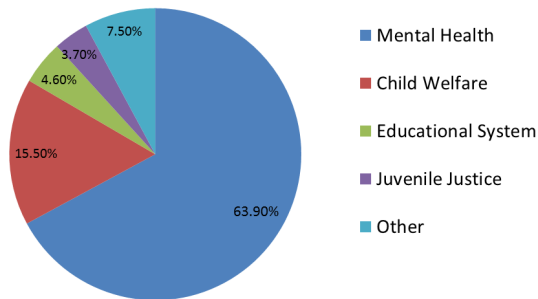
From March 2012 to March 2013, the number of attending families increased from 131 to 194. Among all attendees, 97% found their experiences helpful and positive.

For the full report, please click [here](#).

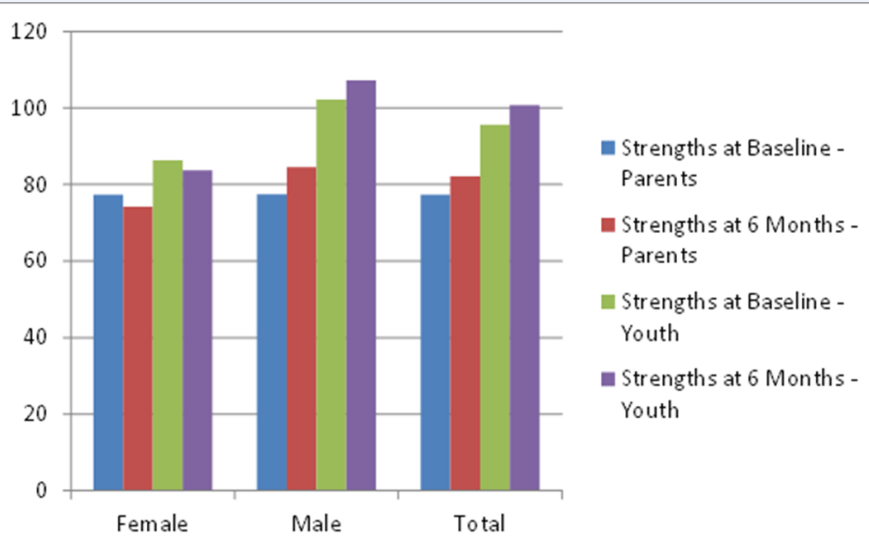




Youth Referrals by Services Referral Source

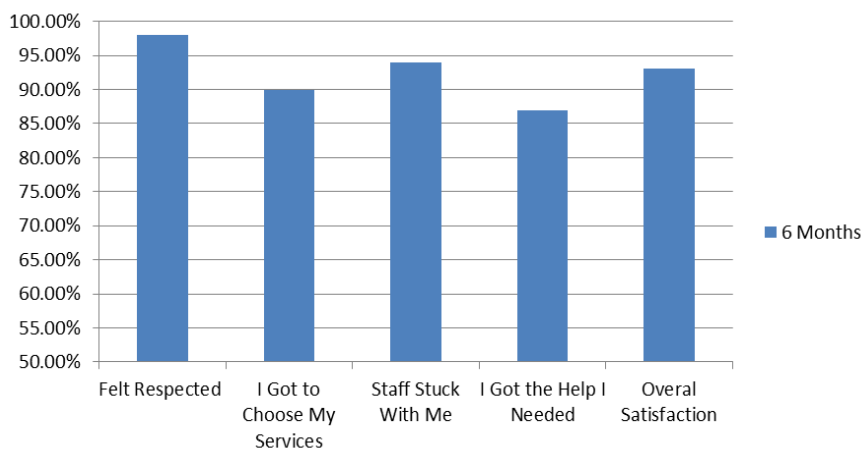


Youth Referrals by Services



Higher scores on the BERS indicate more strengths. Below 70 very poor strengths; 70-79 poor strengths; 80-89 below average strengths; 90-110 average strengths; 111-120 above average strengths; 121-130 superior strengths; Above 130 very superior strengths.

Perception of Care



Perception of Care is only collected at 6 months or later and not at enrollment.

Numbers of Note

95%

Participating Families who were Medicaid Eligible

62%/38%

Youth Male/Female Involvement

1/3

Youth Missed 2+ Days of School Because of Behavior

87%

Overall Satisfaction Among Youth

97%

Attendees who Found their Experiences Helpful and Positive

What Does This Mean for the Community?

The One Community One Family (OCOF) systems of care has been operating for approximately 4 years and the findings from its evaluation are encouraging. For example, the emotional and behavioral strengths of males in the communities are increasing during the first 6 months of enrollment. In addition, it appears that children and their families become more stable in their school placement and attendance increases during the first six months. However, we continue to seek answers to questions like, "Why do males show improvements in strengths between enrollment and 6th months and females do not?" and "Why do young people rate themselves as having more strengths than their caregivers?" We are working diligently to link these outcomes to program and community improvements.

