



# **NWI NEWS**

## **January 29, 2007**

*Notes from the National Wraparound Initiative*

### **Hello to everyone involved with the National Wraparound Initiative!**

We have a plan to meet again in 2007! So we thought it would be a good idea to send out another issue of *NWI News*. In this edition, we will:

- Present a plan for the 2007 meeting;
- Describe preparations for the meeting that we will be undertaking;
- Describe some new fidelity measures that are now available for wraparound; and
- Let you know about some other things that are going on.

### **NWI Meeting in Portland, May 29 - 30, 2007**

We have confirmed that we will be meeting in 2007, over the two days preceding the Portland State RTC conference. (For more information about the conference, see [www.rtc.pdx.edu](http://www.rtc.pdx.edu)). The meeting schedule will be as follows:

- Tuesday, May 29, 12 noon – 5pm
- Wednesday, May 30, 8:30 am – 1pm.

Our hope is that this meeting schedule will allow for the most productivity while still allowing people to easily travel to the meeting and attend the conference.

In addition to the new schedule, this year, we will be taking a new approach to the meeting agenda. As you may remember, at last year's meeting, six areas of need were identified for moving the field forward with respect to wraparound. Since that meeting, task groups related to five of these areas have been working on priority goals. At this year's meeting, we will be affording time to each of these task groups:

1. **Parent partners in wraparound:** Specifying roles, skills, and typical activities
2. **Standards and accreditation:** Determining an agenda for ensuring standards for wraparound providers or programs
3. **Workforce development:** What do communities and wraparound host agencies need?
4. **Evaluation, research, and accountability:** What are evaluation priorities and learning needs?
5. **Finance:** Sources and structures for financing wraparound initiatives.

Janet and Eric have been in contact with NWI members who have been working in each of these areas to help them convene in advance of the meeting by phone to organize their use of the meeting days. **If you are interested in being part of planning for one or**

**more of these task groups, please contact Janet (for the Standards, Workforce, and Financing task groups) or Eric (for the Parent Partner or Evaluation task groups).** Janet is at [janetw@pdx.edu](mailto:janetw@pdx.edu) and Eric is at [ebruns@u.washington.edu](mailto:ebruns@u.washington.edu).

Other agenda items for the meeting will be:

1. Review of accomplishments by NWI advisors since July 2006; and
2. Review of content for the SAMHSA-funded *Implementation Guide to Wraparound* that the NWI will be assembling in 2007

**Please RSVP as soon as possible if you are planning to attend.** We have very limited funding available to support attendance, and we will give priority consideration to youth and family members. **For inquiries about support, contact April Sather by February 28, 2007: [sathea@u.washington.edu](mailto:sathea@u.washington.edu)**

Information about accommodations can be found on the RTC website:

<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/conference/pgAccommodations.php>

Finally, you may want to consider presenting at the RTC conference as well. The deadline for submissions has been extended to February 2:

<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/conference/pgCall.php>

## Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System (WFAS)

We are also happy to announce that communities will soon be able to participate in pilot testing of the complete Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System (WFAS). This includes:

1. The Wraparound Fidelity Index, version 4 (interviews with youth, caregivers, facilitators, and team members),
2. The Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory,
3. A Document Review for Wraparound, and
4. A Team Observation Measure (TOM).

If you would like to hear more about this pilot, and sign up for more information about using this complete set of fidelity instruments, please email us at

[wrapeval@u.washington.edu](mailto:wrapeval@u.washington.edu). A factsheet about the WFAS and its component measures is included at the end of this update.

You can also find updates about the WFI and all the above measures at the Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team website: <http://depts.washington.edu/wrapeval>.

## Family Guide to Wraparound - Spanish version

A Spanish translation of *The Wraparound Process User's Guide: A Handbook for Families* by Pat Miles and the NWI is now in the works! Translation and printing should be completed some time in the next few weeks. If your community would like to pre-

order copies, please contact Nicole Aue ([aue@pdx.edu](mailto:aue@pdx.edu)). If you will want copies, we encourage you to pre-order so we have an idea of how many to print.

The English edition of the *Wraparound Process User's Guide* is now available through the NWI website. Printed copies are available to order at cost from the Research and Training Center publications page

<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/pgPublications.php>,

OR you can download a free PDF of the *User's Guide* through the NWI website, or go directly to the Handbook at

[http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/PDF/pbWraparound\\_Family\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/PDF/pbWraparound_Family_Guide.pdf).

That is all for now! The website ([www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi](http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi)) continues to be updated, so be sure to check it out periodically for new features and content. We hope to see you in Portland in May!

-- Eric and Janet

# Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System

## Description

**Overview.** The Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System (WFAS) is a multi-method approach to assessing the quality of individualized care planning and management for children and youth with complex needs and their families. WFAS instruments include interviews with multiple stakeholders, a team observation measure, a document review form, and an instrument to assess the level of system support for wraparound. The instruments that comprise the WFAS can be used individually or, to provide a more comprehensive assessment, in combination with one another.

*The WFAS tools were specifically designed to assess adherence to the 10 Principles of Wraparound and the Phases and Activities of the Wraparound Process as defined by the **National Wraparound Initiative** ([www rtc.pdx.edu](http://www rtc.pdx.edu)).*

**Uses.** Fidelity measurement is a core implementation support to evidence-based practices. The WFAS provides a method for conducting fidelity measurement for the wraparound process, as specified by the National Wraparound Initiative.

As a fidelity measurement system, WFAS instruments were designed to support both program improvement as well as research. With respect to **program improvement**, sites or programs delivering services via the wraparound process can generate profiles, organized by the prescribed activities of the wraparound process or the 10 principles of wraparound, to illuminate areas of relative strength and weakness. This information can be used to guide program planning, training, and quality assurance.

With respect to **research**, data from WFAS instruments can help evaluate whether the wraparound process has been adequately implemented, and thus aid interpretation of outcomes. In addition, researchers on youth and family services may wish to use WFAS instruments to measure the relationship between adherence to the wraparound model and outcomes, as a way to explore which aspects of service delivery are most important to child and family well-being.

**Other uses.** Although the WFAS instruments were not intended originally for use on the individual family level, this type of analysis could provide useful guidance to wraparound teams around the quality of implementation for a specific family. However, great care would have to be undertaken in order to insure confidentiality of the family and staff persons involved. Finally, though WFAS instruments have not been used widely as a standards conformance or certification assessment, there has been some interest in adapting the WFAS tools for this purpose. Local communities and jurisdictions will need to carefully examine their own practice model, local standards, and/or requirements in order to determine whether WFAS tools are adequately in alignment to be used as a support to compliance or accreditation.

## WFAS Instruments

The measures that comprise the WFAS include:

- *The Wraparound Fidelity Index, v. 4*
- *The Team Observation Measure*
- *The Documentation of Wraparound Process*
- *The Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory*

### **Wraparound Fidelity Index, version 4.0**

The Wraparound Fidelity Index 4.0 (WFI-4) is a set of four interviews that measure the nature of the wraparound process that an individual family receives. The WFI-4 is completed through brief, confidential telephone or face-to-face interviews with four types of respondents: caregivers, youth (11 years of age or older), wraparound facilitators, and team members. It is important to gain the unique perspectives of all these informants to understand fully how wraparound is being implemented. A demographic form is also part of the WFI-4 battery.

The WFI-4 interviews are organized by the four phases of the wraparound process (Engagement and Team Preparation, Initial Planning, Implementation, and Transition). In addition, the 40 items of the WFI interview are keyed to the 10 principles of the wraparound process, with 4 items dedicated to each principle. In this way, the WFI-4 interviews are intended to assess both conformance to the wraparound practice model as well as adherence to the principles of wraparound in service delivery.

### **Team Observation Measure**

The Team Observation Measure (TOM) is employed by external evaluators to assess adherence to standards of high-quality wraparound during team meeting sessions. It consists of 20 items, with two items dedicated to each of the 10 principles of wraparound. Each item consists of 3-5 indicators of high-quality wraparound practice as expressed during a child and family team meeting. Working alone or in pairs, trained raters indicate the whether or not each indicator was in evidence during the wraparound team meeting session. These ratings are translated into a score for each item as well as a total fidelity score for the session overall.

### **Document Review Measure**

The Documentation of Wraparound Process (DWP) is a 29-item instrument that is used to assess the primary documentation requirements of high fidelity wraparound. The DWP is used by a trained evaluator who uses the tool to rate conformance to the principles of wraparound in materials such as the child and family's wraparound plan, crisis and safety plans, transition plan, and meeting notes. Like the other WFAS fidelity tools, items on the DWP link to the 10 principles of the wraparound process, and result in scores for individual items, the 10 principles of wraparound, and a total score for the instrument overall.

## Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory

CSWI domains include:

- Community Partnership
- Collaborative Action
- Fiscal Policies & Sustainability
- Access to Supports & Services
- Human Resource Development & Support
- Accountability

The CSWI is a research and quality improvement tool intended to measure how well a local system supports the implementation of the wraparound process. The CSWI is based on the framework of Necessary Conditions described by Walker, Koroloff and Schutte (2003), and presents 40 community or system variables that ideally are in place in communities that aim to implement the wraparound process. The CSWI is somewhat unique from the other WFAS instruments in that it assesses the system context for wraparound as opposed to the fidelity to the practice model for an individual child and family.

The CSWI can be used in several ways. First, it results in a quantified assessment of community supports for wraparound across multiple domains, so that researchers can determine the impact of these conditions on fidelity and outcomes of the wraparound process. Second, it presents the level of support across multiple domains (such as funding, collaboration, and accountability) so that evaluators and stakeholders can understand the full context for wraparound implementation as part of their local evaluation projects. Third, items and domains are structured so that local groups can assess community supports for wraparound, respond to areas of strength and weakness, and monitor improvements over time.

### Psychometrics

Previous versions of the WFI have demonstrated good test-retest reliability, internal consistency, and inter-rater reliability. Validity studies have found that fidelity as assessed by the WFI correlates with the ratings of an external wraparound expert, while other studies have found significant associations with child and family outcomes as well as community-level assessment of system supports for wraparound.

The WFI-4 revised the WFI-3 in order to bring it in line with the specified practice model of the NWI as well as better operationalize its items. It is currently being piloted in over 10 sites nationally. The TOM, DWP, and CSWI are new measures that are currently being subjected to pilot testing and examination of reliability and validity. The Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team is **currently seeking communities and programs** interested in using the measures and in participating in pilot testing.

### Supporting Technologies

*The WFI-4 has been translated into Spanish for use by collaborating communities who serve Spanish-speaking youth and families.*

The WFI-4 includes a detailed User's Manual with detailed instructions and scoring rules. The WFI-4 also includes a training PowerPoint presentation for use by lead evaluators at a program or community. Such supporting technologies are currently being developed for all WFAS instruments. The Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team has also developed data entry shells in SPSS and Excel formats for all WFAS measures, which are available for use by collaborating communities.

**If your program or community is interested in using one or more of the WFAS instruments, please contact the Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team at [wrapeval@u.washington.edu](mailto:wrapeval@u.washington.edu).**