



# NWI NEWS!

## Notes from the National Wraparound Initiative

### August 21, 2006

#### *Greetings everyone!*

Given that it has been a month since our meeting in Orlando in July, it is definitely time for a report out from the National Wraparound Initiative. In this brief “issue” of NWI News, we will:

- Recap events from the meeting,
- Present some follow-up activities, and
- Let you know about some other things that are going on with the NWI and wraparound.

#### **NWI Meeting in Orlando**

**The meeting was a smashing success.** It is always good to get together, meet new people who are interested in the issue of wraparound implementation, and learn about what is going on. But the meeting this year went much further. After some initial recap of accomplishments, the morning was dedicated to small group discussions about what is needed nationally to support high-quality wraparound implementation. Then, after some post-lunch large group discussion, the 60-odd advisors in attendance got into small interest groups.

While in those interest groups, advisors brainstormed important goals for the future. And, in some instances, they even began to define specific action plans for accomplishing the goals.

The groups that met in the afternoon discussed six primary areas of need:

1. **Parent partners in wraparound:** Defining roles, skills, and typical activities
2. **Financing and sustainability:** Supporting local wraparound efforts
3. **Standards and accreditation:** Determining an agenda for ensuring standards for wraparound providers or programs
4. **Workforce development:** What do communities and wraparound host agencies need?
5. **Social marketing:** What would the field benefit from with respect to dissemination and information sharing?
6. **Evaluation, research, and accountability:** What are evaluation priorities and learning needs?

Notes from each of these interest groups are provided in the next pages (Attachment A). In addition, we attach a summary of all the feedback from the morning’s small groups. In

this section, we summarize what has been useful and helpful about the NWI, what more is needed, and what priorities for future work should be (Attachment B).

We will also post these notes on the NWI website. ([www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi](http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi)) We hope you find these helpful!

### *Parent Partner Task Force*

At its June 2006 meeting the National Wraparound Initiative Advisory Group Meeting identified defining the role of “parent partner” within the framework of the Wraparound Process was a high priority. Sixteen Advisors volunteered to work on this task and met together to design and approach to this task. Marlene Penn and Trina Osher volunteered to serve initially as Co-coordinators for the Task Force.

The group discussed various options for the title of this role and identified specific tasks to accomplish during the coming year. List of tasks was e-mailed to all members of the Parent Partner Task Force with a request that they indicate which tasks they were willing to work on and what title they would suggest for the role. As of this writing (8-18-06), ten members had responded. The list of tasks with the number of individuals interested in working on each of them follows.

1. Identify the characteristics of the role including both a description of the job responsibilities and the personal qualities and skills necessary to do the work. (8 responses)
2. Use the National Wraparound Initiative process to gather reactions, comments, and other feedback on the developed title and descriptive materials. (4 responses)
3. Collect existing material about this role such as a) job descriptions, b) skill sets, c) training programs, d) descriptions of how the role functions in a program or project, and e) how individuals are supervised. (5 responses)
4. Establish a review process for examples collected that is similar to the one used for all other tools posted to the National Wraparound Initiative Website. (3 responses)
5. Integrate the collected materials with the four phases of wraparound. (3 responses)
6. Describe strategies for linking individuals who serve in this role with family organizations to sustain and support the role in the community. (4 responses)
7. Develop tools to assess the quality with which individuals are performing this role as well as the outcomes from having this role in the community. (4 responses)
8. Develop a framework for developing salary schedules and defining of work environment and employment issues such as benefits, liability, and flexible working hours. (7 responses)
9. Establish a research agenda in conjunction with researchers. (2 responses)

Titles suggested for this role by the ten individuals who responded include Family Support Partner (mentioned by 2 responders), Family Support Coach, Wraparound Family Partner (mentioned by 3 responders), Family Partner, and Peer Family Guide.

Some titles were suggested by more than one individual and every responder did not indicate a title they would prefer.

By the end of the summer, the Parent Partner Task Force will have organized itself into smaller working groups according to their preference for the specific tasks. Each work group will then develop its own work plan and identify one member to take responsibility for communicating its progress to the Co-coordinators who will, in turn, take responsibility for communicating with the whole Task Force and the leaders of the National Wraparound Initiative and its Advisory Group.

The Parent Partner Task Force anticipates accomplishing its work primarily by conference call and e-mail. When several members of a work group are at the same locations (for a conference or other event) they will make an effort to meet together. The National Wraparound Initiative staff will provide some logistical and technical support such as arranging conference lines and using the National Wraparound Initiative website to post information and get feedback.]

You will find a draft work plan for this task force attached to these notes as Attachment C. If you would like to contribute your effort to this important task, contact Trina Osher at [tosher3@comcast.net](mailto:tosher3@comcast.net).

## **Family Guide to Wraparound**

The first printing of *The Wraparound Process User's Guide: A Handbook for Families* by Pat Miles and the NWI is already gone! We have gotten a lot of positive feedback about the Guide, and so we decided to print many more copies and sell them through the NWI website at \$1.15 per copy (20 copies or more, please). You can also download a free PDF of the Handbook 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).

## **Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory**

For those who reviewed the CSWI and gave feedback and ratings on its constituent items: Thanks! We are now in the process of revising it based on the feedback and will be making it available for communities to use in their research, evaluation, and development activities. If you want more information about the CSWI, or missed the chance to review it and provide formal feedback, please feel free to contact Eric at [ebruns@u.washington.edu](mailto:ebruns@u.washington.edu).

## **Wraparound Fidelity Index, version 4**

The WFI-4 is a new version of the Wraparound Fidelity Index that will more directly assess the implementation of the phases and activities of wraparound that were specified by the NWI. It will be made available to pilot testing communities and programs very soon. For more information or to see a sample copy, you can go to the WFI website at <http://depts.washington.edu/wrapeval>.

That is all for now! We continue to send out updates about the activities of work groups such as the Parent Partner Task Force. The website

([www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi](http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi)) is also about to be revamped, so be sure to check it out periodically for new features and content.

-- Eric and Janet