

April/May 2015

# Creating Connections

Report

## Updates



### TRAINING FOR SOCIAL SERVICE SPECIALISTS

The "Mental Health: In-Depth Applications for Child Welfare", an all-day training for Children's Administration staff, was conducted in March, April and May in Centralia, Lynnwood and Spokane.



### ONGOING MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

The Ongoing-Mental Health Screeners have been busy re-administering nearly 500 screens. The next cohort of children/youth to be screened are those who came into care in July and in December 2014



### UNIQUE VOICE REPRESENTATIVES

Jamerika Haynes, Jackie Yee and Brenda Lopez joined the Creating Connections Core Team and are providing invaluable perspective from alumni of care, caregivers and veteran parents

## Child Welfare Training for Mental Health Professionals

The Creating Connections team is finalizing a pilot training for mental health professionals about child welfare. The training will provide the basics about child welfare, suggest skills to use when working with families involved with child welfare and provide an opportunity to gain perspective from alumni of care, veteran parents and caregivers about their experiences with mental health.

The training, titled "Things I Wish My Therapist Knew: A Child Welfare Training for Mental Health Therapists", will be conducted during the Washington Behavioral Health Conference in June 2015.

## Children's Justice Conference

Barb Putnam and Sue Kerns presented at the Children's Justice Conference on May 12th, 2015. An abbreviated version of the "Mental Health: A Critical Aspect to Permanency and Wellbeing" training was presented.

Approximately 50 participants were in attendance, ranging from Children's Administration staff, Juvenile Justice staff, mental health providers, CASAs and attorneys.

## Ongoing Progress Monitoring

We aim to explore the implementation of various components of the Creating Connections grant on child and youth outcomes and service delivery through system level and case level monitoring and evaluation strategies.

### System Level Monitoring

Our partners at the DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA) division are working to create a Children's Behavioral Health Dashboard specific to the Washington child welfare population. The Dashboard will allow us to track system level indicators of foster children and youth's behavioral health outcomes compared with Medicaid non-foster care children and youth.

### Case Level Monitoring

The University of Washington will be conducting analysis using data from RDA's integrated database to look at the rates at which children and youth in out-of-home care are being screened for mental health needs, identified, referred to, and receiving services across different stages of the system. Additionally, case reviews are being conducted to assess consistency of the implementation, interpretation, and documentation of the SCARED Trauma Tool for quality assurance purposes.

## What's Ahead?

June 2015

Presentation of the "Things I Wish My Therapist Knew: A Child Welfare Training for Mental Health Therapists" at the Washington Behavioral Health Conference

July 2015

Children's Bureau Large Discretionary Grantee Meeting will be held in Washington, DC.

September 2015

The second Creating Connections Community meeting will be held in September of this year. Details to come!

Creating Connections has been accepted to present at the Society for Implementation Research Collaboration Conference on September 25th and 25th.

## Stay Connected!



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