

# The Effect of the Wraparound Program on Behavior Towards Others Among Youth



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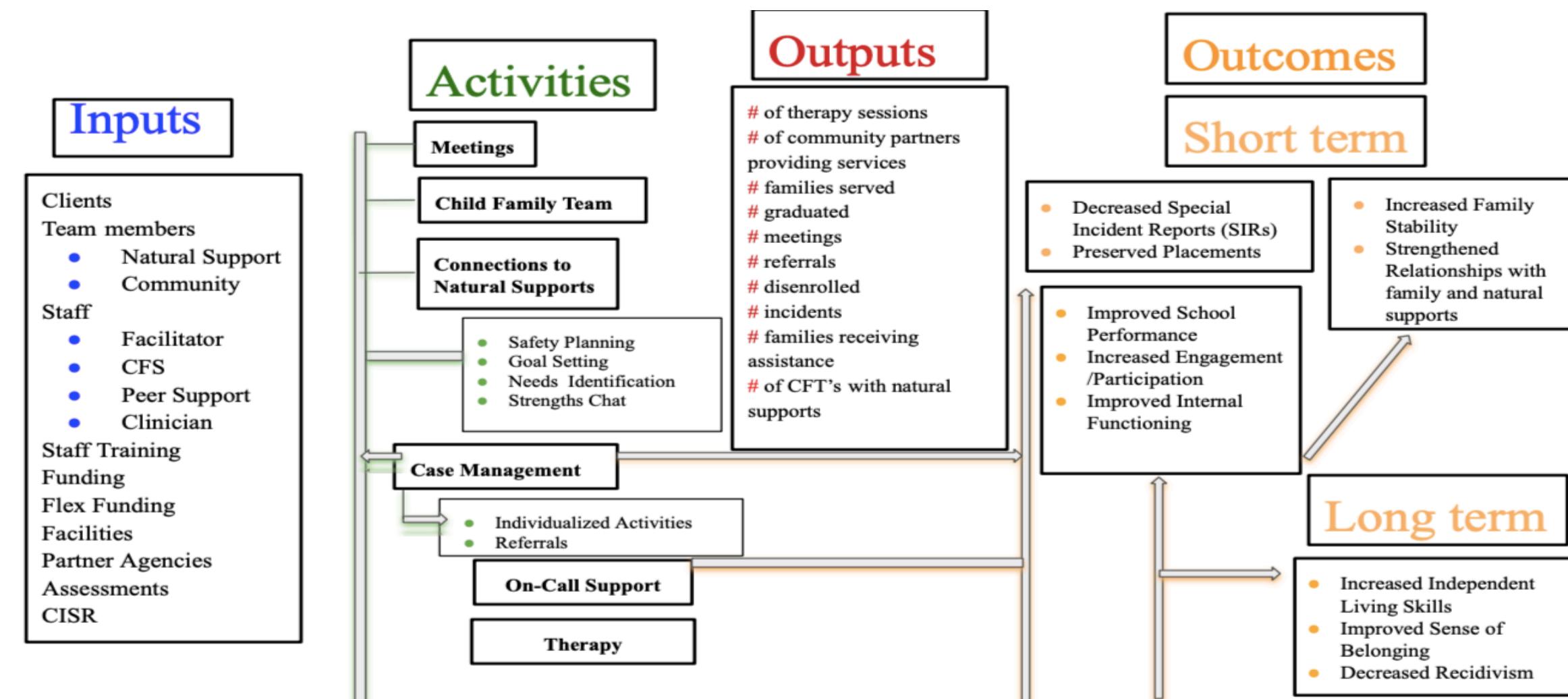
## Abstract

Vista Del Mar's "Connections" Wraparound Program serves high-risk youth in Los Angeles County. The purpose of the program is to provide support and intervention services to help youth have a successful life with their family in their natural environment. The study objective is to evaluate if the Wraparound Program has an effect on behaviors towards others among youth. The research design used to answer the question is a one-group pretest posttest design. Scores were gathered to assess the youth's functioning prior to participation and after completing the program. These scores will assist to determine if there was a change in the youth's behavior. The results indicate that the youth's behavior towards others improved significantly after completing the Wraparound Program.

## Introduction

- This evaluation will examine the effect of program participation on youth, specifically in Vista Del Mar's Wraparound Program. The question that will be specifically focused on is, "What is the effect of the Wraparound Program on behaviors towards others among youth?"

**Hypothesis:** It is expected that participation in the Vista Del Mar's "Connections" Wraparound Program will improve youth's behavior towards others



## Literature Review

- Wraparound Program is a strengths-based model which focuses on services that are individualized to a youth's needs and includes the youth's family

### Studies

- Various research studies suggest that Wraparound is effective for youth and their families. Studies reported that youth receiving Wraparound services have better outcomes than youth receiving usual services.
- After program participation, youth have shown an improvement in school, social, emotional and behavioral functioning, as well as an improved quality of life and empowerment
- Research suggests that participation in Wraparound services is an effective approach for youth who have emotional and behavioral problems

## Methods

- Vista Del Mar provided deidentified data for the evaluation
- The research design used for the evaluation is a one-group pretest posttest design

### Sample

- The sample comprises male and female youth who participated and graduated from the Wraparound Program between 2015-2019
- The sample only includes individuals who completed the program. Initially there were a total of 323 participants, however, only 227 participants completed the program. 90 of the participants disenrolled and 6 were neutral or transferred

### Dependent Variable

- The dependent variable is behavior towards others, which is operationalized as the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially toward others.
  - The variables from the data set that will be used are behaviors towards others at intake and behavior towards others at exit



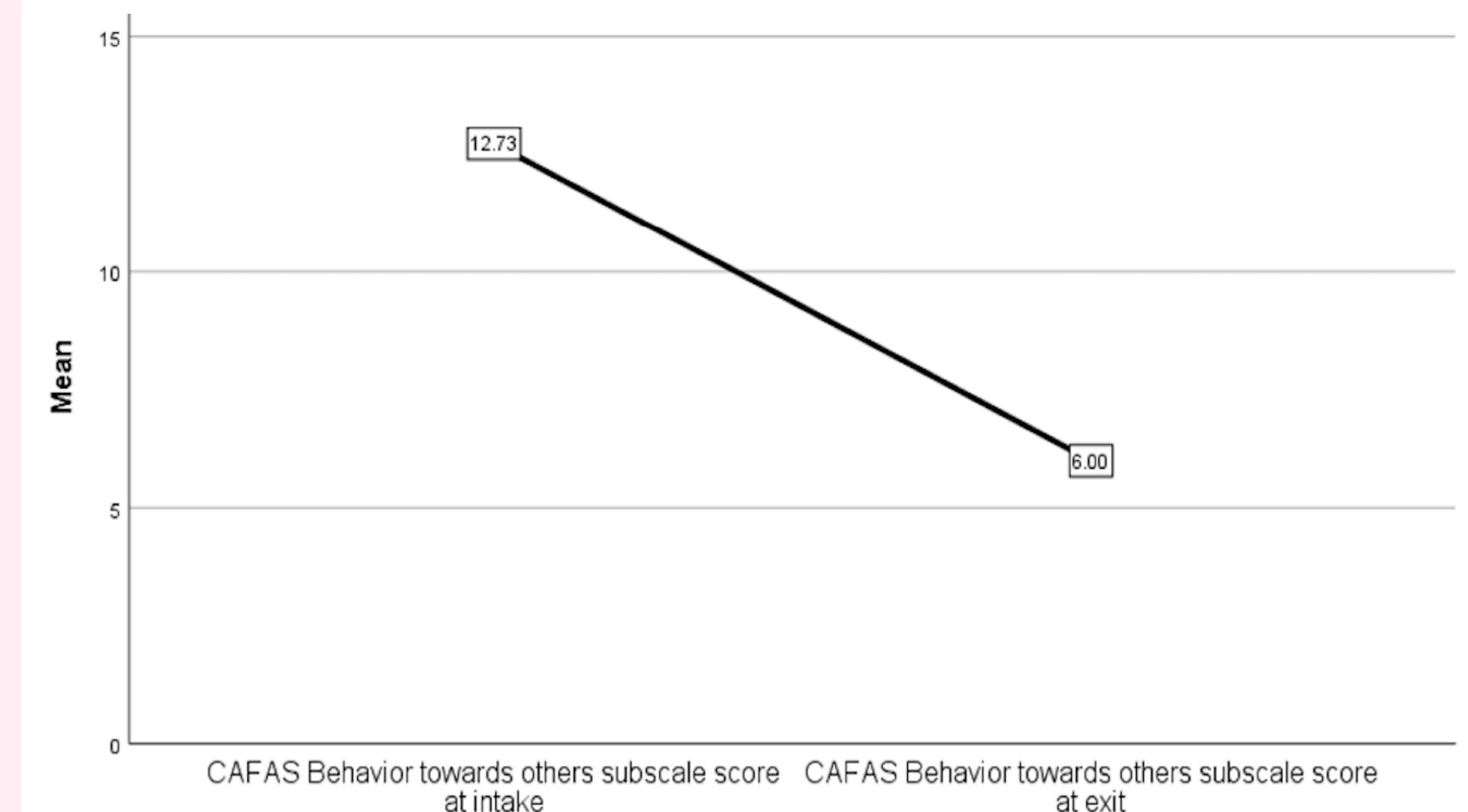
### Data Collection

- CAFAS is an instrument designed to assess degree of impairment in youth with emotional, behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or substance-use problems in youth to measure outcomes
- CAFAS data is collected at intake, which is within the first 30 days of enrollment in the Wraparound Program. The data is then collected again at exit, which is within 30 days before graduation
- The score will be taken from a subset score. The subscale ranges from severe disruption or incapacitation to no disruption of functioning and range from 0 to 30, but are assigned in increments of 10. A lower score indicates good behavior and a higher score indicates risky behavior



## Results

- There were 97 (42.70%) female participants 130 (57.30%) male participants, ages 2-18
- Sample included 29 (12.80%) Caucasian, 117 (51.50%) Hispanic, 75 (33%) African American, 5 (2.20%) Asian and 1 (0.40%) Native American participants
- Participants are from four service planning areas, which include Metro Area, West Side, South Side and South B
- Wilcoxon signed-ranks test examined the results of CAFAS Behavior towards others subscale score at intake and CAFAS Behavior towards others subscale score at exit
- Wilcoxon signed-ranks test produced result that is significant
  - A **significant decrease** was found in behavior
- Scores **decreased** from a mean average of 12.73 to 6



## Discussion

- The employees are dealing with difficult families, which can lead to high rates of burn out
- While there is no evidence of the employees being unhappy, a program recommendation is to ensure that the program has a positive and supportive culture of work and for continued professional development to be offered to employees
  - This would continue to ensure that the employees are invested with the families that they work which would continue to lead to positive outcomes
- A future evaluation recommendation is to have the youth and their teacher complete an assessment. Including school disciplinary data to further assess the youth's behavior towards others would also be beneficial
  - By combining multiple assessments, a more robust accurate measurement can be calculated to examine the youth's behavior towards others

### Study Limitations

- One limitation is that there were no other perspectives included in the CAFAS assessment, just the caseworker's
- Wraparound Program has yielded successful results due to its strong approach to serve families. The Wraparound Program is not a one size fits all model, rather it is customized to meet the needs of each individual family

### Implications for Social Work

- Many social work programs in the field are not customized to serve the client, therefore it is critical for other programs and services to begin implementing models that will provide customized services in the client's natural environment