



# The Effects of Role Performance in the Community Among Graduated Youth

Michelle Cuellar  
California State University, Fullerton  
Master's of Social Work



## ABSTRACT

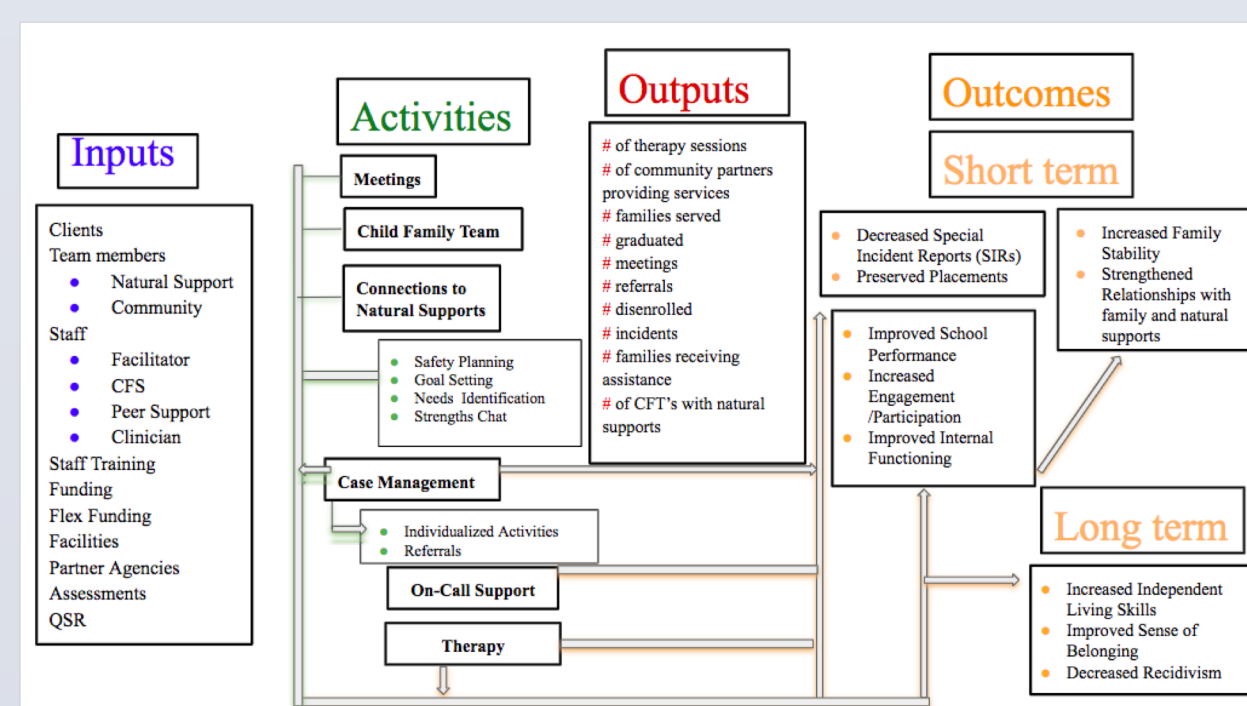
The sample was focused on 227 youth who graduated from the program. The data was collected through program staff who provided a codebook with information on variables such as client ethnicity, birth year, gender, and other variables pertaining to the data. Collection measure were obtained through independent, dependent and demographic variables. The independent variables were program participation and culturally competent services. The dependent variable was focused on social problems.

Findings show that there was a significant difference in role performance in the community from intake to exit. There was no association between number of caseworkers with an ethnic match on the team and role performance in community at exit. Nor were there any significant differences in outcomes when examining role performance in community at exit by ethnic match with the casework, except for the match with the family facilitator. The program evaluation concludes with the implications of the data to this population. The findings show that the Wraparound model is effective in decreasing role performance in the community among youth. Having individualized plans like the wraparound program proves to be successful compared to traditional interventions. Recommendations for improving the program were generated based on study results.

## INTRODUCTION

### Evaluation Questions

- What is the effect of the Vista Del Mar wraparound program on community role performance among graduated youth?
- How does culturally competent services affect role performance at exit among graduated youth?



## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Significance of the Study

- Youth have higher chance of improving social problems and overall success when receiving wraparound services (Bruns et al.,2010)
- Incorporating culturally competent services ensure appropriate services and support for families (Palmer et al. 2011).
- There is a higher success rate and overall satisfaction among youth who receive culturally competent services (Palmer et al.,2011).

### Gaps in Literature

- There is no research to determine if culturally competent services improve youth outcomes.

## METHODS

### Evaluation Design

- The design utilized for research was pre-post test to determine program effectiveness. The diagram was depicted as  $O_1 \times O_2$ .
- The evaluation was conducted twice during the program; prior to program start date and at program exit.
- The pre-test provided information of youth behavior at start date. The exit evaluation allowed staff to see the effectiveness of youth behavior.

### Sample

- Vista del Mar Wraparound program data was collected between 2015-2019.
- The original sample contained 323 youth who participated in Wraparound.
- The sample for this evaluation study includes the 227 male and female graduated youth.
- The majority of the sample was 40% Latino following 33% African American,15% Caucasian, and 8% other.

### Dependent Variable: Social Problems

- Social problems is operationalized as disobedient or inappropriate behavior taking place within the community as measured by the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS).
- This tool is completed by a mental health professional during the initial assessment to determine a service plan and intervention. The variables from the data set include: role performance within the community at intake and exit.



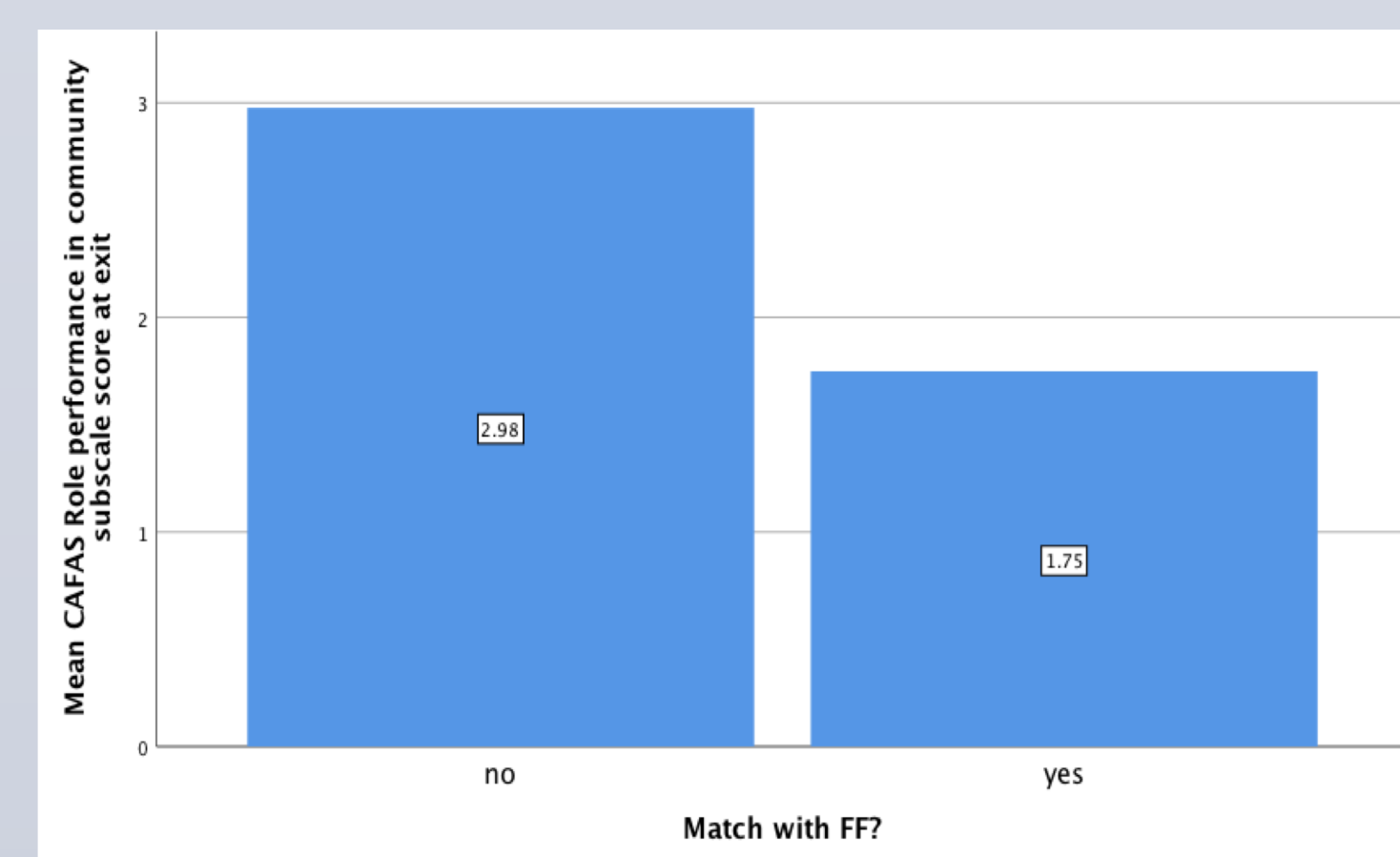
### Independent Variable: Cultural Competency

- The second independent variable is culturally competent services. The operational definition of cultural competence is having an ethnic match between the participant and service provider such as caseworker.
- There are four variables being used for culturally competent services. These are categorical variables that represent whether there is a cultural match between the youth and the provider.
- Four providers being considered are: Parent partner, therapist, child and family specialist, and family facilitator.
- These variables were constructed by examining the youth's ethnicity and comparing it to the provider's ethnicity.

## RESULTS

### Statistical Analysis

- A Wilcoxon signed-ranks test examined the results of role performance at program intake and exit.
- A significant difference was found in the results ( $Z = -6.113, p < .001$ ). The median role performance score at intake was 6.04 compared to 2.20 at program exit.
- A Spearman rho correlation coefficient was computed to examine the relationship between total number of case workers that had an ethnic match with the youth and the youth's role performance within the community at exit.
- No statistically significant correlation was found ( $r_s(218) = -.092, p = .172$ ). The number of case workers that had an ethnic match with the youth was not associated with their role performance at exit.
- A Mann-Whitney U test was used to examine the difference in youth role performance within the community at exit comparing those who had an ethnic match with their case worker and those who did not.
- The test was conducted four times examining four different team members, which include Family Facilitators, Child Family Specialists, Parent Partners, and Therapist.
- The results indicated that there were no significant differences with the exception of Family Facilitators. The results indicated that participants who did not have an ethnic match with their Family Facilitator had significantly higher performance scores ( $M$  Role performance in community at exit= 121.80) than those who had ethnic match with their Family Facilitator ( $M$  Role Performance in Community at exit = 109.42,  $U = 5350.500, p < .05$ ).



## DISCUSSION

### Significant Findings

- Youth scores captured determined the effectiveness of role performance within the community at intake and exit of the program.
- Scores indicated a significant change in role performance in the community, with scores improving(decreasing) over time.
- When examining culturally competent services, data for youth receiving services from caseworkers who had ethnic match was compared with those who did not have an ethnic match with their caseworkers.
- The results indicated no significant difference, except for Family Facilitators.
- Data findings shows that a significant difference in scores when youth have an ethnic match with their Family Facilitators.

### Recommendations for Program

- The agency should continue to provide staff with high quality training and continuing educational courses.
- Program staff should receive continuous education on Wraparound models to ensure the model is implemented with fidelity.
- To create a supportive environment to avoid burnout and high turnover of staff.



### Future Recommendations

- To utilize another tool other than CAFAS for role performance. The change is recommended in order to collect additional information from the youth participant and their caregiver at start and exit of the program.
- Consider adding multiple assessment points and ensuring all staff are collecting data at all time points.

### Study Limitations

- The CAFAS assessment tool utilized for youth at start and exit by intake workers. The assessment tool did not provide an opportunity for the client or family to add information in the assessment.
- CAFAS was limited to indicators within each of the scoring categories for role performance in the community. The subscale of "minimal or no impairment" included two example indicators within that category rather than having several examples to determine an accurate assessment of the client.
- For culturally competent services, the percentage was not equal within each ethnic group. An equal number of ethnic participants would have been best to obtain the most accurate representation of the diverse groups.

### Implications of Social Work

- Continuous use of the Wraparound model to provide individualized plans, supportive and collaborative team for the improvement of social problems among youth.