

THE WRAPAROUND PROGRAM AND THE EFFECT OF THE CAREGIVER'S PERCEPTION ON A CHILD'S FUNCTIONING



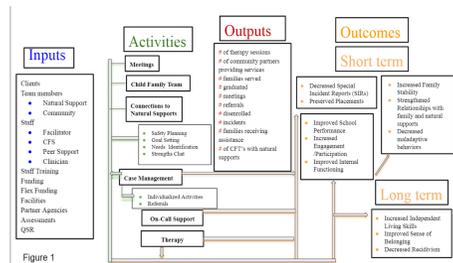
Karen Davis | Professor Jessica Martone | California State University, Fullerton

Abstract

- Vista Del Mar Wraparound Program provides services to high-risk youth and families with multifaceted needs.
- The Wraparound process helps youth stay with their families by setting and reaching goals with a team of professionals and advocates.
- The objective of this study is to determine whether the Wraparound Program has an effect on the participant's functioning, and whether the program's effect differs by the caregiver's perception of the child.
- The sample size of the study was 227 youth who graduated from the program.

Introduction

Vista Del Mar is a Los Angeles, California-based comprehensive family service agency established in 1908. One of their programs is the Wraparound Program, which is a family-centered planning process that is based on the needs and strengths of individual youth and families. The logic model, or outline of the program, is shown below.



The evaluation questions for this study are: What is the effect of the Wraparound Program on the functioning of the child participant, and does the program's effect differ by the caregiver's perception of the child's functioning?

Literature Review

Wraparound Framework	Wraparound Effectiveness	Caregiver's Perception
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wraparound Theory of Change (WTOC) was built by molding facets of various theories together. The four key interventions of Wraparound are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizing Self-efficacy Natural support system Integration of plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth involved in the Wraparound Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved their school behavior and attendance more than those who were not involved in Wraparound. Have a noticeably significant drop in recidivism. Youth in foster care had fewer subsequent out-of-home placements compared to youth who were using other residential treatment services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The perception that their child is problematic, causes caregivers to have a dysfunctional view, lower satisfaction as a caregiver, higher hostility, and high levels of parental distress, (which has been considerably linked to the risk of abuse). Teaching caregivers coping skills to lower their distress can help them to help their child.

Methods

- The research design used for this study is a one-group pretest-posttest design and used deidentified data from Vista Del Mar.
- The original sample contained 323 youth who participated in Wraparound between 2015 -2019. Among this sample, 227 of that sample graduated from the program; therefore, the current study used the 227 Wraparound participants who graduated and completed the program.
- The dependent variable in both evaluation questions is the functioning of the child in the Wraparound Program. The operational definition of the child's functioning is how the child conducts him or herself at home, school, and community environments through their thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- The first independent variable is the Wraparound Program itself and is operationalized as participation in Wraparound. The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS), was used to measure the effectiveness of Wraparound.
- The second independent variable is the caregiver's perception of their child. The operational definition of perception is the caregiver's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors towards their child. The Youth Outcome Questionnaire (YOQ) tool was used to measure the caregiver's perception of their child.



Characteristics of the Sample

- The table to the right lists the characteristics of the participants in the study- including gender, ethnicity, and area of Los Angeles that they live.
- Excluded from the table, program outputs also included 164 families out of the 227 that received flex funds. The money allocated from the flex funds ranged from \$5.00-\$6,302.00.
- Also, 43 out of 227 youth had special incident reports (SIRs). The number of SIRs ranged from 0-3 per child.

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	130	42.70
Female	97	57.30
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	29	12.80
Hispanic	117	51.50
African American	75	33
Asian American	5	2.20
Native American	1	0.40
Service Planning Area		
Metro Area	67	29.50
West Side	68	30
South Side	40	17.60
South Bay	52	22.90
Characteristics		
Age at enrollment ^a	12.23	3.79
Length of stay ^b	363.56	15.80
CAFAS Intake Score ^c	71.50	42.82
CAFAS Exit Score ^d	31.32	30.78
YOQ Parent Total Score ^e	42.52	44.04

^a Scores range from 2 to 18.
^b Scores range from 26 to 1223. Higher scores indicate greater length of stay in the program.
^c Scores range from 0 to 230. Higher scores indicate greater disruption to youth's functioning.
^d Scores range from 0 to 160. Higher scores indicate greater disruption to youth's functioning.
^e Scores range from 0 to 146. Higher scores indicate greater disruption to youth's functioning.

Results

The Effect of the Wraparound Program on the Functioning of the Child Participant

Examined the results of the CAFAS scores at program intake and program exit.

A significant difference was found in the results.

Higher scores indicate greater disruption to youth's functioning.

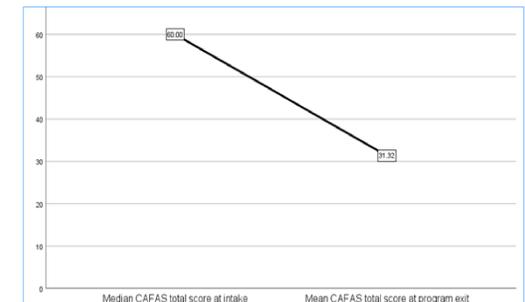


Figure 2. Median child functioning scores at program intake and exit.

The Effect of the Caregiver's Perception on the Functioning of the Child Participant

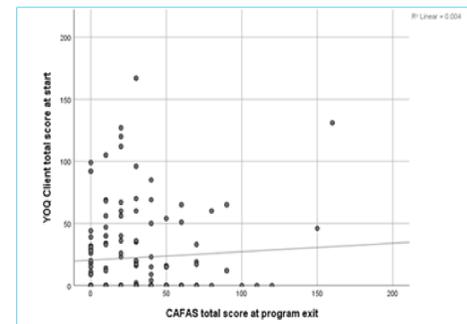


Figure 3. Correlation Scatter Line Graph.

Examined results from the caregiver's intake YOQ and the caseworker's exit CAFAS scores.

The results were statistically significant- there was a positive correlation between the parent's perception and the child's functioning.

Higher parental perceptions were related to higher child functioning as shown in the Simple Scatter Correlation Line Graph.

Discussion

- Study Limitation:** Nearly 1/3rd of the Caregiver YOQs were unavailable for the study. This made it so there was no way to compare the Caregiver YOQ pre-test to the post-test to see if or how much the caregiver's perception of their child changed during the duration of the program.
- Recommendation for the program:** In discovering the substantial effect caregiver's perception has on child functioning, more effort can be made in the Wraparound Program to explain this to the caregivers while nurturing them through changing their perception, and modeling for them how it is done.
- Recommendation for Future Evaluation:** Right now, only one Caregiver YOQ is expected to be filled out. It would be beneficial to have both caregiver's fill one out and to compare the perception of the mother and the father to see if either one made a larger impact on the child's functioning.
- Implications for Social Work Practice:** In discovering the Wraparound Program's substantial effect on child functioning, this program needs to be used on a larger public scale; more funding should be allocated and more caseworkers hired, so more children and families can have access to Wraparound.