

Challenges to Implementing the Comprehensive Services Act in Hampton

Responding to trends that create a sense of urgency about changing direction:

- Increasing cost a concern to local government.
- Children doing poorly in residential placements a concern to staff and judges.

Overcoming belief systems that support the status quo:

- Family-focused, community-based services perceived as not suited for the most at-risk and hardest to serve children. A professional acceptance of residential placement as more appropriate. There has to be a commitment to create community-based placements where none exist that are tailored to the individual need of children. There is growing research to support this approach.
- Higher cost = better quality service. The medical field began challenging this assumption thought an emphasis on outpatient procedures and prevention services. Community-based care in Hampton demonstrates that higher quality and lower cost are not incompatible.
- Individual agency approaches prevail over a collaborative approach. Leadership from the CSA coordinator and commitment from the Community Policy and Management Team needed to reinforce a collaborative community-based (CSA) approach. There needs to be a state CSA Academy to institutionalize training and certificate for a local "systems of care" model.
- Professional influence prevails over parent involvement. Leadership from the CSA coordinator is necessary to require a parental voice in developing case plans.

Redirecting resources to get the job done:

- Need for dedicated staff to support the Family Assessment and Planning Team.
- Need for a single FAP Team to five consistent, collaborative assessments.

Focusing on Critical Success Factors - Three things that have to happen in order to achieve success:

- Commitment to reduce length of stay in residential placements by returning children to the community quickly.
- Commitment to develop alternate funding sources to supplement funding pool.
- Commitment to rigorous utilization review of all high cost placements

Innovative Programming in Hampton

Specialized Intensive Foster parenting Program

Customized Support/Personal Care Services

Teaching Parent Program

- Local Version of Kinship Care
- Foster parents mentoring natural families

Because of the spirit of collaboration, shared resources and creativity, Hampton:

- Saves money
- Saves time
- Saves energy
- Allows at-risk youth to experience a more normalized lifestyle