

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## 2011 - 2012



## INTRODUCTION

Fiscal Year 2011 has been an eventful and exciting year for *CONNECTIONS*. Family and youth voice has continued to inform our leadership and guide decision making. In partnership with Development Centers, Inc., local parents founded Family Alliance for Change to support parents in Wayne County who have children involved in children's services. Youth leadership has also expanded to include more Lead Youth Advocates at partner agencies and higher youth group participation. Youth United is known across the state as a model for youth involvement.

Our collaborative has also grown to include American-Indian Health and Family Services, Public Health Department of Wayne County, and the Institute for Population Health (formerly the Detroit Office of Health and Wellness Promotion). Together, we have embarked on several cross-system initiatives to increase access to services for children with mental health needs. 2012 also saw the development of the Medical Behavioral Court, a specialty docket designed to guarantee children's mental health needs are considered during court proceedings.

Guided by data, *CONNECTIONS* has increased understanding of the needs of children and families in our community. Following the High-End User Project, which found an extremely high rate of early childhood trauma, *CONNECTIONS* increased its efforts to build a trauma-informed system of care. Additionally, workforce training has evolved to include system partners, programs have been tweaked to encourage stronger successes, and evidence based practices have become the norm. In upcoming years, *CONNECTIONS* will continue to serve children and families in Wayne Country by providing innovative services designed to meet their needs.

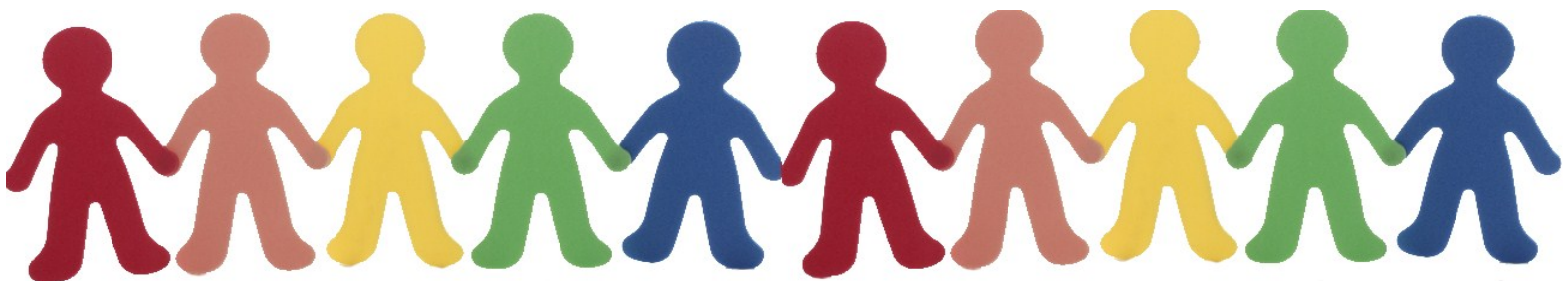


## CONNECTIONS GOALS

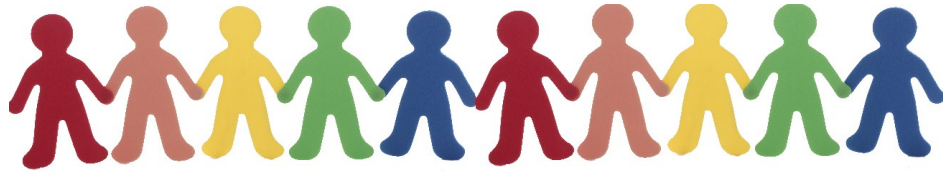
1. ACCESS TO SERVICES
2. QUALITY SERVICES
3. WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE
4. YOUTH/FAMILY DRIVEN

*"Systems of care is not a program — it is a concept and philosophy of how care should be delivered"*

Visit us online at <http://www.vceonline.org/soc>



# PARTNERSHIPS



## Partners

- ◆ Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency
- ◆ Institute for Population Health
- ◆ Michigan Department of Human Services - Wayne County
- ◆ Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA)
- ◆ Third Judicial Circuit
- ◆ Wayne County Department of Children & Family Services
- ◆ Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)

## Community Agencies

- ◆ American Indian Health and Family Services
- ◆ Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services
- ◆ Arab American and Chaldean Council
- ◆ Black Family Development, Inc.
- ◆ Carelink Services
- ◆ Clinic for Child Study
- ◆ Community Care Services
- ◆ Community Living Services
- ◆ Consumer Link Network
- ◆ Development Centers, Inc.
- ◆ Family Alliance for Change
- ◆ Gateway Community Health
- ◆ Gateway Detroit East Community Mental Health Center
- ◆ Hegira Programs Inc.
- ◆ Juvenile Assessment Center
- ◆ Lincoln Behavioral Services
- ◆ New Center Mental Health
- ◆ North Central Health Center
- ◆ Northeast Guidance Center
- ◆ Pioneer Behavioral Health
- ◆ Ruth Ellis Center
- ◆ Southwest Counseling Solutions
- ◆ Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center
- ◆ Starfish Family Services
- ◆ Starr Vista
- ◆ Synergy Partners LLC
- ◆ The Children's Center
- ◆ The Guidance Center
- ◆ Virtual Center for Excellence
- ◆ Youth United

## Universities

- ◆ Eastern Michigan University
- ◆ Michigan State University
- ◆ University of Michigan
- ◆ Wayne State University
- ◆ Western Michigan University



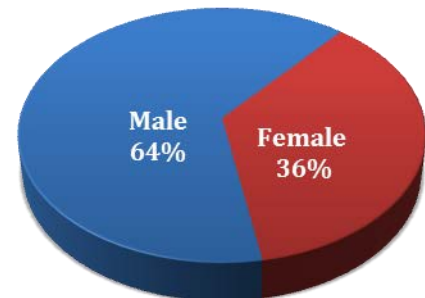
# CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED

*In 2011—2012, CONNECTIONS provided mental health services to youth and their families in Wayne County.*

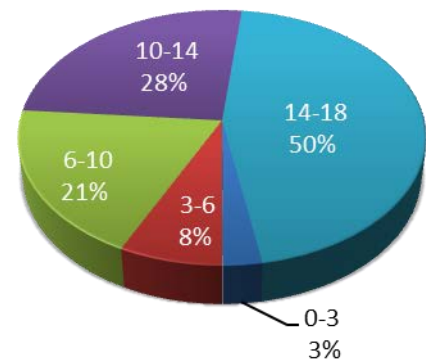
## Children's Initiatives

- ◇ Home Based Services
- ◇ Outpatient Services
- ◇ Wraparound
- ◇ Infant Mental Health
- ◇ DHS/SED Waiver Benefit
- ◇ SED Waiver General Fund Benefit
- ◇ LGBTQ Services at Ruth Ellis Center
- ◇ Kids-TALK Child Advocacy Center

## Gender



## Age at Intake

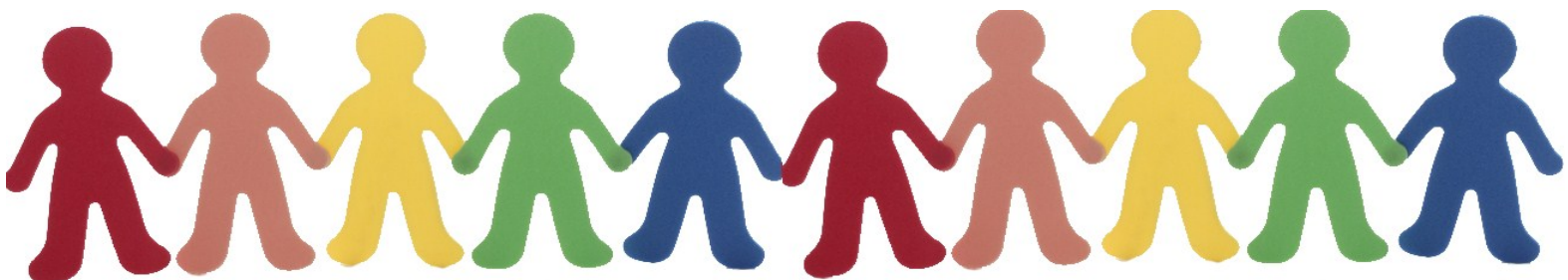


## Evidence Based Treatments

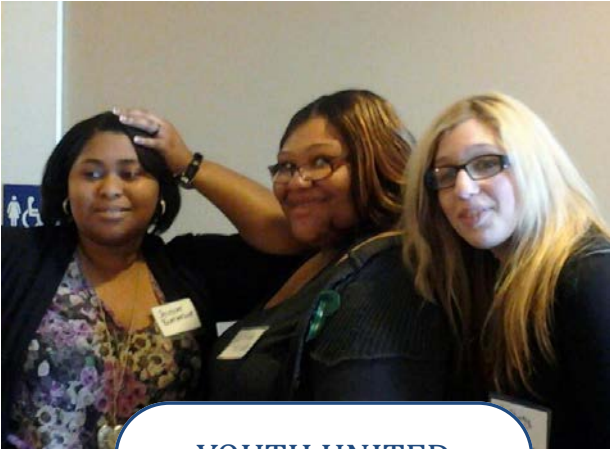
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy
- Parent Management Training-Oregon
- Trauma Focused CBT

## Evidence Based Practices

- Cornerstone
- Infant Mental Health
- Intersections
- Multifamily Groups
- Wraparound



# YOUTH & FAMILY DRIVEN



## YOUTH UNITED

### EVENTS

- ⇒ Poetry Slam
- ⇒ 2nd Annual Global Youth Day
- ⇒ Children's Mental Health Day Collage Presentation

### GROWTH

- ⇒ Increased number of youth groups from 2 to 5
- ⇒ Hired 4 new Lead Youth Advocates
- ⇒ Gave presentations at local, state-wide, and national conferences
- ⇒ Youth provide peer support for youth in services
- ⇒ Youth United representation on statewide advisory committee

In FY2011, *CONNECTIONS* worked to further integrate youth and family voice into all levels of the system of care.



A parent and a youth sit on all *CONNECTIONS* committees



A parent and/or youth trains or co-trains all professional staff



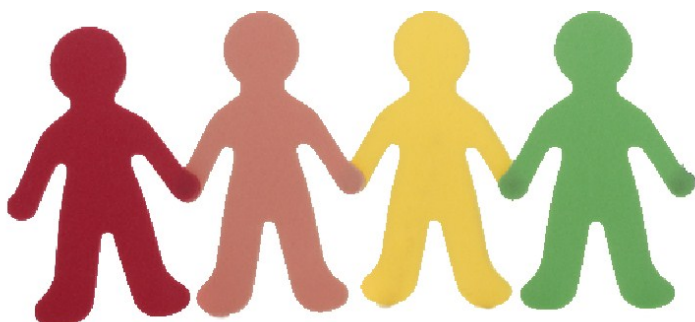
All contracts were revised to include family driven/ youth guided language

## FAMILY ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

In October of 2011, Wayne County parents formed their own parents group called Family Alliance for Change (**FAFC**). In addition to advising *Connections* leadership and providing day to day support to parents of children with special needs, parents from FAFC advocate for all children at the state and national level.

FAFC also works to train parents to become leaders in their communities.

- ◆ 40 parents attended statewide training to become certified Parent Support Partners
- ◆ 6 parents attended a training to become Resource Parent Trainers



**Parent Support Partners and Lead Youth Advocates provide family support at 10 partner agencies**

# OUTCOMES: Age 0 - 6

## BABY COURT

The Wayne County Baby Court originated in 2010 through a partnership between the Third Circuit Court- Juvenile Division, Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency and the Department of Human Services. This specialty docket was designed to address the needs and improve the outcomes of infants and toddlers involved in the foster care system.

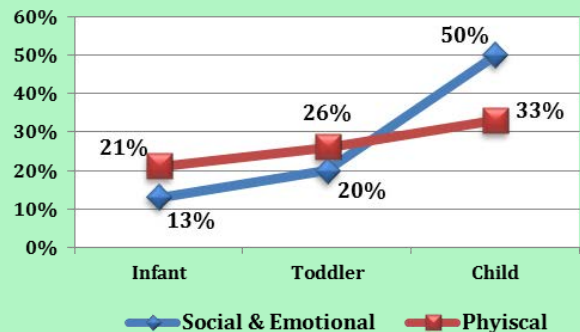
- ◆ To date, **13 families** have gone through Baby Court
- ◆ Among the 7 closed cases, 5 children or **71.4% have been reunited with their birth families.**



## INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Infant Mental Health services are offered at eight provider agencies in Wayne County. The relationship-based, home visitation model works to improve physical, social and emotional development by building parent-infant attachment. Due to the long length of stay for these families, outcome data is not yet available. However, intake data shows that children receiving IMH services have significant social, emotional, and physical needs which increase with the age. This information solidifies the need for early intervention.

Percent of Children with Identified Needs at Intake into IMH Services



\*Social and Emotional Needs were determined by the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment. Physical Needs were determined by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

## PECFAS OUTCOMES

The Preschool & Early Childhood Assessment Scale (PECFAS) is used for assessing the functioning of children age 4-7. Clinicians rate behaviors within each domain by severity, resulting in a numeric score indicative of the child's overall functioning. A child is considered to have a **successful outcome** if the child's score reduces by 20 points, leaves service with no severe impairments, or has no impairments on the three key subscales of School/Daycare, Home, and Behavior toward others.

**45%** of children 4—7 had successful outcomes

# OUTCOMES: Age 7-17

## Using CAFAS to Measure Outcomes

The Child & Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) is the assessment used by Michigan and Wayne County to measure a youth's level of functioning across 8 critical life domains. Clinicians rate behaviors within each domain by severity, resulting in a numeric score indicative of the youth's overall functioning. Change in scores can be used to measure progress.

A youth is considered to have a **successful outcome** (a significant improvement in functioning) if the meets one of the following criteria:

1. Reduction in CAFAS total score of 20 points or more
2. Elimination of any severe impairments in life domains
3. Elimination of severe or moderate impairments in key domains of School, Home, & Behavior

### ALL CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES

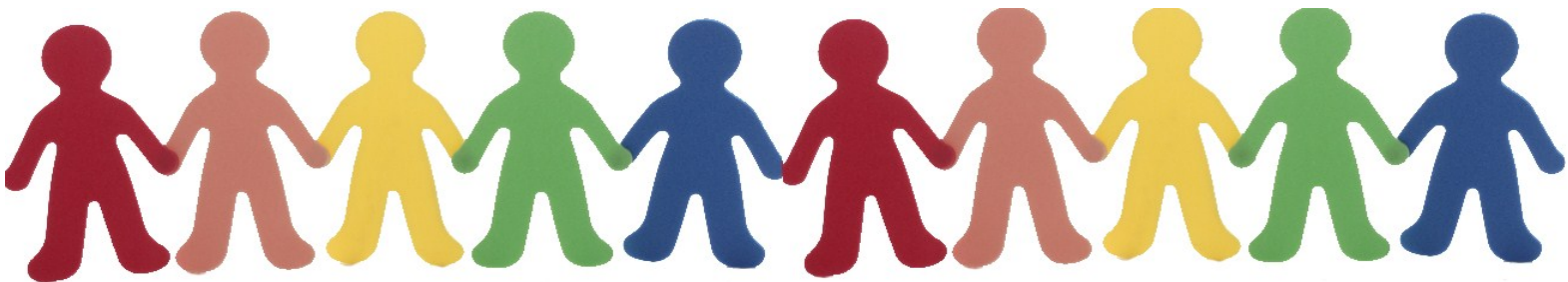
Successful Outcomes Reached: 34.8%  
Average Reduction in Score: 20pts

### HOME-BASED

Successful Outcomes Reached: 44%  
Average Reduction in Score: 16pts

### OUTPATIENT

Successful Outcomes Reached: 53.7%  
Average Reduction in Score: 18.7pts



# TRAUMA-INFORMED SYSTEM

## Building a Trauma-Informed System of Care

Childhood trauma significantly affects children involved in all child-serving systems. Research shows that trauma directly impacts emotional health and behavior, and has lifelong effects. *CONNECTIONS'* 2011 High-End User study found that among the most troubled youth, 95% had a history of trauma. Additionally, among a sample of children from one provider agency, 48% had at least one traumatic childhood experience. *CONNECTIONS* is addressing this need by continuing to build a trauma-informed system of care.

## What is a Trauma-Informed System?

Programs and agencies within a trauma-informed system infuse and sustain trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills into their organizational cultures, practices, and policies.

-National Child Traumatic Stress Network

## Teaching & Empowering Parents

- 18 local parents participated in Family Alliance For Change's workshop "Caring For Children who have Experienced Trauma".
- 6 parents were trained as Trauma-Focused Resource Parent Trainers

## Treatment for Trauma

- 1,232 children received crisis counseling and/or support services following forensic interviews at **Kids-TALK Child Advocacy Center**
- 435 children received Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence-based treatment shown to help children and their caregivers overcome trauma-related issues.



## TOWN HALL

Over 300 professionals, parents, and community members attended "Saving Our Youth: Violence, Abuse & Neglect in our Families & Community." The event drew awareness to the prevalence of childhood trauma in Wayne County, educated attendees on the effects of trauma in children, and discussed available community-based services. Speakers included trauma specialist Dr. Jim Henry, parent Kim Hunt (pictured above), and child advocate Jack Kresnak.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Over 150 Qualified Children's Mental Health Professionals serve children and families in Wayne County.

## CROSS-SYSTEM TRAINING SERIES

2011 – 2012

A total of **508** people attended these trainings, representing CMH, DHS, Education, and JJ systems.

December : Working with LGBTQ Youth  
January: SOC 101  
February: Navigating Child Welfare  
March: Co-Occurring Disorders  
April: SOC 101  
May: Navigating Juvenile Justice  
June: Cultural Competence  
July: SOC 101  
August: Navigating Special Education  
September: Psychotropic Medication for Cross Systems Children



### VIRTUAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Connections works closely with the VCE, the training and support arm of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. The VCE trains the entire workforce in core competencies required to deliver mental health services. The **Children's Mental Health Ground Rounds** learning series offered monthly trainings on a variety of topics focused on working with children and families. A **Cross-System Training Series** trained professionals from all systems on the practices and policies of system partners. The VCE also housed several special trainings throughout the year based on topics requested by professionals or parents in the field.

## Workforce Development Model



