



OACCA

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, Inc.

Outcomes Data Project NEWSLETTER

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Dear Stakeholder,

The first Monthly Reports using data the participating agencies entered in 2007 were released in February 2008.

The first Annual Report is scheduled for release in Spring 2008. Both reports reflect preliminary analysis for two reasons:

All of the outcomes to be measured depend on discharge and/or follow up data. Too little time has elapsed since the beginning of the project to see children move through placements to a point of six month follow up.

The number of children on whom we have data represents a small fraction of the children served. They may or may not be representative of the entire group.

Despite the small number of cases eligible for analysis the data has shown interesting profiles of the children served.

Demographic information was entered for 831 cases in 2007 of which 58% were between 12 and 17 years of age. However 16% were under the age of 5.

Eight of ten children received services from a child protective service authority or a juvenile court prior to placement.

Over seven of ten children experienced abuse and/or neglect prior to placement.

Four of ten children performed below grade level in school at the time of their admission to the program.

36% of the children were on and IEP at the time of placement.

Attention Deficit Disorder, Disruptive Behavior Disorder, and Mood Disorder were the most common diagnoses of children entering placement.

An internal Quality Improvement Committee established by the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** Steering Committee began meeting in January 2008. The purpose of the committee includes insuring the quality and integrity of the data and reports generated by the project.

Data quality and integrity has high priority in the project. Not only the QI Committee but also the Voinovich School at Ohio University which analyzes and reports on the data is committed to insuring that each stakeholder can depend on the reports for accuracy and completeness.

In an effort to better help the agencies monitor the collection and input of data, we developed a missing data report that can tell each agency which piece of information is missing by question, by client. This report will support data integrity by virtually eliminating the chance of incomplete data (unless the data is unavailable, which in some cases is the cause of data being incomplete).

The project Steering Committee has begun the task of reviewing the instruments and tools to insure that the questions asked capture the data we seek. We expect some minor changes to the instruments and questions. For example, as a result of feedback during presentation about the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** we recognize the importance of capturing whether a child has multiple diagnoses. On the next version of the instruments and tools, we plan to begin capturing this information. We plan for this to be the final revision of the project during the pilot phase. Hence the importance of a comprehensive review, insuring all elements in the project reflects our best efforts to measure the outcomes of the children in care.

Getting the word out about the project ranks high on the list of tasks to be completed. The **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** has the potential to become a major factor in increasing the quality of care in the foster care system. Public agencies want to purchase service they know will have positive outcomes for children. Private providers express a desire to deliver quality services that are proven to help children and their families. We want to spread the word about how this project can impact the quality of care for children in Ohio. We have made presentations to a number of individuals in public agency leadership. We have also shared the project with a significant number of the OACCA membership. If anyone wants more information about the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** please call Jim Burkett, Project Manager, 937 441 4590, or Bryan Brown, Assistant Director, 614 461 0014.

Some exciting news about a related project – When we rolled out the DECA as the assessment tool for children under age 5, we connected with Linda Likins from Devereux. Linda invited the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** to join an effort lead by Devereux to test service intervention protocols that flow from the DECA assessments for foster children. Previously, the DECA has primarily been used in day care and pre school settings. Service intervention protocols have been developed for children in these settings. However, it is unclear whether the same service intervention protocols are valid for children in the foster care system. Devereux has begun a service intervention testing program for children entering the foster care system in three counties in Florida. Now several agencies associated with the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** have joined the service intervention testing project! This gives these agencies a “head start” in having valid assessment based service interventions in place for children under age 5 in their foster care programs. The agencies that are part of this project include: Focus on Youth, Choices, Youth Advocate Services, SAFY, Adriel, OYAP – East Region, and The Twelve. Look for leadership from these agencies in developing service interventions for young children!

Regards,

James Burkett, LISW

OACCA Outcomes Data Project Manager