
BBI Webinar: Residential and Child Welfare Partnerships towards Ensuring Permanent Connections

Overview of the National Building Bridges Initiative (BBI)
BBI Mission

Identify and promote practice and policy initiatives that will create strong and closely coordinated **partnerships and collaborations** between families, youth, community- and residentially-based treatment and service providers, advocates and policy makers to ensure that comprehensive services and supports are **family-driven, youth-guided, strength-based, culturally and linguistically competent, individualized, evidence and practice-informed, and consistent with the research on sustained positive outcomes.**
Endorse the BBI Joint Resolution

- Go to BBI Web Site (www.buildingbridges4youth.org)
- Read BBI Joint Resolution (JR)
- E-mail Dr. Gary Blau (Gary.Blau@samhsa.hhs.gov) or Beth Caldwell (bethcaldwell@roadrunner.com) that You Would Like to Endorse BBI JR
- Be Put on List Serve to Receive BBI Newly Developed Documents
- Be First to be Invited to BBI Events
Go to BBI Website:

www.buildingbridges4youth.org

Documents & articles to support field, e.g.:

- **Implementing Effective Short-Term Residential Interventions**
- **Successfully Engaging Families Formed by Adoption: Strategies for Residential Leaders**
- **Fiscal Strategies that Support the Building Bridges Initiative Principles**
- **Cultural and Linguistic Competence Guidelines for Residential Programs**
- **Handbook and Appendices for Hiring and Supporting Peer Youth Advocates**
- **Numerous documents translated into Spanish (e.g., SAT; Family and Youth Tip Sheets)**
- **Engage Us: A Guide Written by Families for Residential Providers**
- **Promoting Youth Engagement in Residential Settings**
BBI Web-Based Training Programs Available

https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/onlinetraining/programcategory.cfm?ottype_id=30

- Best Practices in the Use of Psychiatric Medications for Youth During Residential Interventions (1.5 CEUs)
- Cultural and Linguistic Competence (Part 1): Why Does it Matter? (2 CEUs)
- Cultural and Linguistic Competence (Part 2): Implementation Strategies (2 CEUs)
- Cultural and Linguistic Competence (Part 3): On a One-to-One Level (1.5 CEUs)
- First Steps for Leaders in Residential Transformation (2 CEUs)
- Including Family Partners on Your Team (2 CEUs)
- Pre-hiring, Hiring, Supporting, and Supervising Youth Peer Advocates in Residential Programs (2 CEUs)
- Successful Strategies for Tracking Long-term Outcomes (1 CEU)
- Youth-Guided Care for Residential Interventions (2.5 CEUs)
BBI Core Principles

• Family Driven & Youth Guided Care
• Cultural & Linguistic Competence
• Clinical Excellence & Quality Standards
• Accessibility & Community Involvement
• Transition Planning & Services (between settings & from youth to adulthood)
BBI Contact Information

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www.buildingbridges4youth.org
BBI-One Program’s Transformation: Business, Clinical, and Family Advocate Perspectives

Presented by:
Patricia A. Olney-Murphy, LICSW, St. Mary’s Home for Children
Brenda Alejo, Parent Support Partner, Parent Support Network
Nikki Lawrence, LMHC, St. Mary’s Home for Children
About St. Mary’s Home for Children

- High-end residential treatment services and aftercare
- Acute residential treatment services
- Assessment and Stabilization program
- Outpatient services
  - Office-based
  - Home and community based
    - Enhanced Outpatient Services (EOS)
    - Outpatient Support Program (OSP)
    - Child & Family Trauma Team (CFTT)
    - Supporting Teens and Adults at Risk (STAAR)
    - Supporting Adoptive & Foster Families Everywhere (SAFFE)
- Special Education School
Why BBI? Some context

- Wanted better outcomes for youth
- Research proved what we saw anecdotally
- Same youth cycling through
- Youth experiencing multiple placements
- Recognized need to better engage families
  - Parents/Family NOT the enemy
- Youth in care too long
- Liked the framework because it wasn’t prescriptive
  - Allowed for creativity and flexibility in service of
  - BBI values and principles
  - Allowed us to build on our strengths
Preparing

- Examined the outcomes for youth who had extended stays in residential
- Learning opportunity from another agency
- Created program design and logic model based on BBI framework
- Read BBI materials
- Brought BBI training to the agency
- Connected with Parent Partner agency
Making the Commitment - Building the Foundation

- BBI implementation is a significant component of our strategic plan
- Policies and procedures re-written to reflect BBI language/philosophy
- Job descriptions include commitment to BBI values and principles
- Parent Support partner embedded at the agency
- Added Family Liaison positions
- Start of every meeting includes family engagement story
- Ongoing training and support
Continued Commitment and GROWTH

- BBI Retreats-How are we doing, what can be improved, is there drift?
- Monthly Government System meetings: Focus on BBI successes, staying on BBI message, reinforce BBI principles, sharing strengths of program, transparency, asking for support.
- Presenting BBI at local CEO meetings, speaking up at outside trainings, reinforcing in provider and family meetings, constant advocacy.
- Youth Voice and Choice-Youth Council, Youth now interviewing staff, youth trained in “modified TCI.”
- Youth attend Board meetings and speaking engagements.
- Hired Youth Mentor with “Lived Experience”
- Family Search and Engagement training and practices
ABOUT PARENT SUPPORT NETWORK

- Individualized Peer Support Services
- Support Groups
- Social Events
- Educational Workshops
- Family & Youth Leadership Development
- State and regional policy, advisory & advocacy boards & committees
- Partnership with system of care and interacting service systems (education, behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, etc.)
Parent Partner Role

- An ally for the family from Day One
- Promote engagement of parents to fully participate in their youth’s treatment.
- Reinforce Parent’s involvement in everyday decision-making about their youth’s care.
- Assist families with meeting basic needs, finding resources and navigating the system
- Provide ongoing support and education opportunities
- Promote self-care and nurturing parenting skills
- Encourage communication between parents, St. Mary’s, DCYF, and other community based providers and natural supports involved.
- Provide aftercare services
Parent Partner made us a Dream Team!

- Young boy and his mom who suffered from OCD and agoraphobia-Our First Success!
Family Liaison Role

- Works in both the residential houses and family’s homes
- Facilitates family time between youth and family
- Supplemental parent coaching
- Provides aftercare services
- Coordinates youth’s involvement in community “normalizing” activities
Youth Mentor Role

- Personal experience in the child welfare system
- Provides leadership development and training to our youth
- Support and mentor youth
- Advocate and assist in building youth voice and choice
- Assist in family finding
Family Engagement Specialist

- Promote the success of each family through facilitating the development, articulation, implementation and stewardship of the Building Bridges Initiative
- Oversee and provide clinical supervision to the BBI team
- Encourage Parent involvement
- Data collection
Leading with Family Engagement

- Intake and admissions process is family-friendly
  - Meet family at venue of their choice
  - Interpersonal strategies to engage
    - empathy, validation, respect for cultural and religious beliefs, expression of hope for the future
  - Family is in charge of decision-making regarding replacement
  - Tour of the agency involves not just staff in the house. But kitchen, maintenance, nursing, teachers, etc.
  - House staff members meet with family to discuss activities, routine, allowance, transportation grant, etc.
- Residential Without Walls
- Commitment to EVERY youth having a connection
- First item on the agenda for every agency meeting is Family Engagement
Beyond Family Engagement to busting barriers

- Daily contact with families via phone, home pass, or family time on campus
- Transportation provided when it is a barrier
- Community activities with families
- Family finding
- Treatment plans emphasize achievable gains, reinforce positive change and address the entire family’s needs – not just the child’s
- Education to families, DCYF, Child Advocate’s Office, CASA, and judges regarding research that supports shorter lengths of stay
- Interventions address interpersonal & practical barriers
- High levels of empathy and validation, cultural competence, case management, advocacy, motivational interviewing, and TFCBT
Aftercare

- Discharge planning begins at admission
- Parent Support Partner, Family Liaison, and home-based trauma clinician makeup the team from admission through aftercare
  - Some members of the team stay involved based on individualized needs
- Family receives six months of aftercare services
  - Home-based, weekly
  - Services based on family’s needs
  - Monitor family for up to one year
- Psycho-ed, service coordination, parent advocacy & support; individual, couples, and family treatment, and referral
- Connect family with other services to assist
Data

- 51 Clients since inception in January 2016
- 31 have been eligible for aftercare services
  - 18 participated
  - 1 declined
  - 12 were not eligible
- Of the 18 BBI Aftercare Program participants:
  - 14 of the 18 youth maintained stable living environment (77%)
    - 1 of those youth returned to congregate care (5%)
    - 1 of those youth is AWOL/suspected of being a victim of trafficking (5%)
    - 2 youth are in the hospital awaiting placement (11%)
  - 14 of the 18 youth maintained stable schooling (77%)
    - The same four youth referenced who lack a stable living environment
Contact Information

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