

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI): Advancing Partnerships. Improving Lives.

**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

- Dr. Gary Blau, Chief, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch, SAMHSA
Gary.Blau@samhsa.hhs.gov
240-276-1921
- Beth Caldwell, Director
bethanncaldwell@gmail.com
413-644-9319
- Sherri Hammack, National Coordinator
svhammack@sbcglobal.net
512-964-6164
- Lloyd Bullard, Provider Exchange Coordinator
bbi.lbullard@gmail.com
301-437-2378
- JuRon McMillan, Project Manager
juronbbi@gmail.com
404-242-3150

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

Carlene Casciano-McCann

Executive Director

St. Mary's Home for Children

420 Fruit Hill Avenue

North Providence, RI 02911

cmccann@smhfc.org

401-353-3900

Patty Olney Murphy

Clinical Director, Residential
Services

St. Mary's Home for Children

420 Fruit Hill Avenue

North Providence, RI 02911

polney@smhfc.org

401-353-3900

Brenda Alejo

Parent Support Partner

Parent Support Network of

Rhode Island

535 Centerville Road

Warwick, RI 02866

b.alejo@psnri.org

401-467-6855

Nikki Lawrence

Clinical Director, Residential
Services

St. Mary's Home for Children

420 Fruit Hill Avenue

North Providence, RI 02911

nlawrence@smhfc.org

401-353-3900

BBI Contact Information

- **Dr. Gary Blau**, Chief, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch, SAMHSA
Gary.Blau@samhsa.hhs.gov
240-276-1921
- **Beth Caldwell**, Director
bethanncaldwell@gmail.com
413-644-9319
- **Sherri Hammack**, National Coordinator
svhammack@sbcglobal.net
512-964-6164
- **Lloyd Bullard**, Provider Exchange Coordinator
bbi.lbullard@gmail.com
301-437-2378
- **JuRon McMillan**, Project Manager
juronbbi@gmail.com
404-242-3150

www.buildingbridges4youth.org



