REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS ROUND 4
FAMILY CONNECTIONS THROUGH PEER RECOVERY (FAMILY-CPR)

LEAD AGENCY: Broward Behavioral Health Coalition Inc.
LOCATION: Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING: $3,000,000

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Broward County, Florida
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION: Region 4
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: 22

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Inc., ChildNet, Inc., the Florida Department of Children and Families Southeast Region, the Dependency Drug Court of Broward County, Broward Sherriff’s Office (BSO), South Florida Wellness Network, Broward County Department of Human Services, Children’s Services Council of Broward County, the University of Miami, the Children & Families Leadership Association and System of Care Partners join in partnership to bring much needed resources to Broward County. The project plans to demonstrate that the early identification, the use of best practice interventions combined with peer support, ongoing follow-up, and a closely coordinated team approach over a longer period of time can change outcomes. The project is family centered and child focused, with the goal of keeping children safe at home.

The intervention delivered will be Engaging Parents Care Coordination combined with Intensive Family Preservation Services, Continuing Care Parent Advocate (Peer Specialist) and the Motivational Support Program (including substance abuse treatment).

The overarching objective of the Family-CPR Project is to demonstrate that an integrated continuum of care, combined with an intensive family engagement component and peer support, will result in increased parental retention in treatment, enhanced provision of targeted services for children and parents, improved parenting practices, and a decrease in family trauma. The ultimate aim is to enhance child and family well-being and reduce incidences of re-abuse, child welfare re-referrals and removals.

TARGET POPULATION AND PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED

The target population is families from the geographic boundaries of Broward County who meet the inclusion criteria:

- Child is 0 to 11 years of age, referred for investigation of child maltreatment and upon investigation has been found to be in one of the two categories as identified by the Structured Decision-Making Safety and Risk Assessment tools: (1) “Moderate” to “Very High” Risk of future maltreatment and “Conditionally Safe,” or (2) High to Very High Risk of future maltreatment and with no “safety Threats” (or “Safe) and has

- A parent/caregiver with factors indicative of substance abuse.

The project proposes to serve 288 families over the life of the grant, 144 in the intervention group and 144 in the control group.
MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL: Develop a system and continuum of care that adequately addresses the needs of families afflicted by addiction who are non-treatment seeking, and at risk of losing their children due to child abuse and neglect calls.

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase connection to and retention in services for the participating families.
- Improve children’s functioning and developmental outcomes particularly related to mental health status, recovery from trauma, healthy attachment and social development.
- Reduce parent/caregiver’s substance abuse and risk for child abuse.
- Prevent re-referral or further involvement in the child welfare system.

KEY MAJOR PROGRAM SERVICES

- Case Management and Case Conferencing
  - Intensive/Coordinated Case Management

- Wraparound and In-Home Services
  - Wraparound/Intensive In-Home Comprehensive Services

- Family Therapy/Counseling
  - Traditional/Short-Term Family Therapy/Counseling
  - Intensive/Long-Term Family Therapy/Counseling

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment for Adults
  - Aftercare/Continuing Care/Recovery Community Support Services

- Cross-Systems/Interagency Collaboration
  - Cross-systems clinical training on substance abuse, child welfare and clinical issues
  - Regular joint case staffing meetings
  - Cross-systems information sharing and data analysis
  - Regular regional partnership meetings to discuss program, policy and management issues

- Evidence-Based Practices
  - Homebuilders
  - Engaging Moms/Parents Program

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- State Child Welfare Agency
- Child welfare services provider (non-profit or for-profit)
Other child welfare agency or organization - Oversight organization for the County
Regional/County Substance Abuse Agency
Local Law Enforcement
Peer/parent mentor group or network
Other community agency or organization - County based funder and direct service provider
Evaluator/Data Collection and Analysis – Other (non University-based or affiliated)
Consultant
Behavioral Health (SA/MH) Coalition

**Evaluation Design**

**Outcome Study Design:** Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)

**Evaluability Assessment**

The grantee’s local evaluation has an impact study, an implementation study, and a partnership study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

**Impact Study Design**

The grantee will use a randomized controlled trial to examine the impact of its RPG services. Members of the program group will receive the Engaging Parents Program (EPP) and assignment to a Continuing Care Parent Advocate (Peer Specialist) in combination with two treatment-as-usual services—Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) and the Motivational Support Program (including substance abuse treatment). Families will receive RPG program services for up to six months. Members of the comparison group will receive the treatment-as-usual services, which include IFPS and the Motivational Support Program (including substance abuse treatment). The impact study will include 288 families, with 144 in the program group and 144 in the comparison group. The grantee will examine impacts in the following domains: safety, permanency, child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

Data sources include administrative data and information collected by data collectors using standardized instruments. Trained data assessors will collect data from both the program and comparison groups using the standardized instruments. The data assessors will not know whether families are in the program group or comparison group. Data will be collected three times for each family: (1) when families begin services (baseline); (2) 6 months after baseline; and (3) 12 months after baseline.

**Implementation Study Design**

In the implementation study, the grantee will use a formative evaluation design, documenting and describing RPG project operations from the development stage through service delivery. Evaluators will examine how the additional RPG services (EPP and the Peer Advocate) enhance the IFPS intervention and improve retention and outcomes. Data sources include interviews with
staff, documentation of project procedures, process measures of care coordination, service utilization information, and case files (which will be used to assess adherence to EPP model).

**Partnership study design**

In the partnership study, the grantee will examine how the project stakeholders and partners work together. The grantee will also assess changes in the capacity for collaboration; how that collaboration may increase or improve over time; and the gaps, challenges, and successes of cross-system collaboration. Data sources include project documentation, meeting notes, and observations of stakeholder interactions and meetings. The grantee will also implement the Collaborative Values Inventory and the Interagency Collaboration Activities Scale with partners.

**SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES**

The project builds upon existing resources in the community that will be strengthened and enhanced through this project. The SUD treatment services provided by Broward County, and the IFPS services provided by CSC are provided as match. If project outcomes are positive, these services will remain in place and ChildNet will repurpose Child Advocates to become certified in the EPP practice utilizing a “Train the Trainer” approach that will be implemented in year 5, thereby institutionalizing the practice in Broward’s System of Care.

Additionally, Florida’s Medicaid Managed Care Plans are beginning to reimburse for parent advocacy peer services. Magellan Complete Care currently provides reimbursement. The Family-CPR project will outreach to the Sunshine State Health Plan and the Florida Child Welfare Managed Care Plan to establish reimbursement for peer services. Hence, the project will be fully self-sustainable by the conclusion of the pilot project. Since child welfare and behavioral health are privatized and local, the community can fund and expand the project when federal funding ceases if, in fact, the data show positive outcomes.