



## INTRODUCTION

And study overview of the *One Community, One Family* system of care evaluation study

*Jeffery A. Anderson, Ph.D.*

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### Overview

Since 2009, the *One Community One Family* system of care has provided an interagency system of care for young people with emotional and behavioral challenges and their families in Southeastern Indiana.

- *One Community One Family* is responsible for creating and maintaining a coordinated, community-based system of services, developing new and natural supports for participating children and young people, and putting families at the center of all decision-making.
- The grant allows the *One Community One Family* to serve new populations, enhance its cultural competence, improve its social marketing, and increase family involvement in program planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Additionally, the grant provided support for both youth and family advocacy and support networks called *FIRE* and *United Families*.
- The grant also supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation study that integrates the requirements of a national evaluation effort to study systems of care along with local interests and needs relative to the development of a system of care in Southeastern Indiana.

### Evaluation

- The evaluation study has been conceived by a team of researchers and practitioners from Indiana University (IU) and Southeastern Indiana.
- While the national evaluation is driven by CMHS at the federal level, development of a local evaluation component has been the focus of a subcommittee of the *One Community One Family* Governance Board, called the Evaluation Advisory Board (EAB).
- The EAB is a group of individuals that includes stakeholders from IU, *One Community One Family*, *FIRE*, *United Families*, and the Southeastern Indiana community. The role of the EAB is to provide an informed voice to the external, independent evaluation of the *One Community One Family* system of care.



**Overview of the Data Sources and Data Collection Methods.** Data for this study are collected from both quantitative and qualitative sources. All personal information is kept confidential following all professional and ethical regulations. Most of the data analyzed for this report come from three primary sources.

- 1) **Electronic Health Records (EHR)** which provides the evaluation team with basic information about demographic and clinical backgrounds and services utilized.
- 2) **In-depth Interviews with the Youth and Primary Caregivers.** As part of the federal grant, the external evaluation team conducts in-depth interviews with the youth who are 11 years or older and their primary caregivers, at the time of enrollment into *One Community One Family* and at 6-month intervals, for up to 24 months post enrollment. The federally mandated questions are extensive. Both the youth and caregiver interviews are conducted as face-to-face interviews by a trained, professional interviewer. Interviews are conducted at times and places convenient for the participants. The youth interviews take approximately 1 hour to complete. The primary caregiver interviews take approximately 90 minutes. At the conclusion of each interview, participating youths and caregivers receive a gift card from a local store, as a token of appreciation for their participation.
- 3) **Field observations, in-depth qualitative interviews with stakeholders, and focus groups with families and stakeholders.** With the guidance of the EAB, the research team also is compiling information to better understand system level processes and the local social context in which *One Community One Family* functions. This type of information is very important to helping the research team develop an understanding of the complexities of implementing and sustaining an interagency system of care as well as how youth and caregiver support groups are developed and grow.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The ongoing development and implementation of an evaluation of *One Community One Family* system of care would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of countless people and the support of the community. First and foremost, we would like to thank the young people and their families who take the time to participate in this research study. Second, we wish to acknowledge the support and confidence of the *One Community One Family* Governance Board, *United Families*, and *FIRE*. We also would like to thank the members of the Evaluation Advisory Board who have shaped this year 1 report as well as staff at CMHC, Inc. for their assistance in incorporating the evaluation protocol alongside the service program. Like all large research studies, we would not have been able to carry out this evaluation study without the capable assistance of a talented research team. In particular, Sophie Faught, Project Manager, and Paul Meyer, Interviewer, deserve credit for the quality of many of the data.

As always, we welcome your questions, comments, and ideas.



#### **EVALUATION BRIEFS**

Introduction and Study Overview

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