

FAMILIES PLUS : A Delta County Innovation







Delta County Colorado

- ▶ About the size of Rhode Island, population about 30K
- ▶ Per capita income \$23,890 (US = \$28,051, Colorado = \$31,039)
- ▶ 50.8 % of children qualify for free school lunches
- ▶ Ranks 40/59 counties in overall health access and quality
- ▶ Risk factors of adult premature death; teen births; high levels of smoking, adult and child inactivity, poverty.

What is a community-based integration model?

- ▶ Community-based means YOU AND I AND YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE THE ONES THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. Supports from the community.
- ▶ Integration means “NO MORE SINGLE SYSTEM PLANS FOR MULTI-SYSTEM KIDS!” Integration means that access is easy, access is sensitive, access is culturally competent.

Children with Complex Needs

WHAT CHILDREN PARTICIPATE
IN FAMILIES PLUS?

- ▶ Low income homes (poverty is stressful !)
- ▶ Single parents with little solid support
- ▶ Parents with their own disabilities and health problems in the way
- ▶ Grandparents trying again to raise children but much older now
- ▶ Children with early and continuing trauma, behavioral and emotional problems
- ▶ Children, parents, and perhaps grandparents with multiple system involvement

HRSA Grant (Health Resources and Services Administration)

- ▶ Grant from the HRSA Office of Rural Health Policy is encouraging health and behavioral health integration nationwide
- ▶ \$600K over three years
- ▶ Great technical assistance and support from the Feds...

Families Plus places Wraparound Staff into medical clinics across the county



Why Medical Clinics?

Rural life: Most families with complex needs will rarely go to a mental health center for help. They routinely go to a physician's office.

Warm landing: The physician introduces the family to the wraparound staff, including licensed therapists.

Health and Behavioral Health are linked in many ways

- ▶ Family members with depression often have co-occurring health issues
- ▶ Parents or grandparents with major health problems need more support than most other parents, and physicians have often not been able to access this support.
- ▶ About support: A family with strong supports often have a very different prognosis than those without supports.

Barriers to Integration

- ▶ Different information systems
- ▶ Different billing systems
- ▶ Concerns over who is in charge: Wraparound may say the family is in charge, the Physician may feel they are in charge.
- ▶ State Medicaid funding systems have been slow to demand integration
- ▶ The first year is very rough, the second is easier
- ▶ TURF

The results are worth it!

Across 101 children

- ▶ More mentors than kids!
- ▶ In 10 years, only 2/101 kids have dropped out of school without a diploma, and only 3/101 have been incarcerated; 8/101 have had brief foster care stays; 3/101 have had RTC placement.
- ▶ In 2015, 79% of Families Plus children showed improved behavioral health scores on Achenbach, from teacher perspectives, and 66% from parent perspectives.
- ▶ Very high levels of physician satisfaction