



**Mississippi
Wraparound
Institute**

The School of
Social Work

Southern Miss

Engagement • Discovery • Integration • Transformation

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Miles' Message

In order for us to have the necessary understanding of the family's experience, we must make sure that we learn as much as we can about **Initial Conditions**. When we refer to **Initial Conditions**, we mean:

- 1) When the family first noticed something was wrong.
- 2) How the family has attempted to access help from the system (including first attempts up through the present.)
- 3) Specific information about reason for referral to Wraparound.

This information should be present in a clear and explained way in your family stories. What a lot of facilitators forget is that Initial Conditions

should also be present in your strengths lists!

When we gather information about the initial conditions, we also want to know about how the individuals in the family made it through the challenges that they experienced. This means that we will have information about both strengths that the family used to cope as well as the strengths that support people in their lives would have used to help them make it through the tough times.



Functional strengths that reference initial conditions might look like the following:

"Penny is resourceful. Ever since she first started seeking mental health services for her son, she has always gone above and beyond to research and access everything that her community has to offer. This has helped her be able to try new solutions for helping her family."

"Joe values his faith strongly. Back when the family first noticed that Sherry was having difficulty managing her emotions, he started turning to his church for guidance. He has continued to do this to this day and it always helps him feel centered and calm."

"When Sherry was referred to Wraparound, Mrs. Smith was an integral part of the family's support system. Mrs. Smith is dependable. She was always there to help whether it was just to listen, provide a shoulder to cry on, or to help the family with things around the house. Being dependable helps Mrs. Smith maintain strong relationships at home, at work and with her friends."

Don't forget...we need to know about functional strengths from a family's history as well as the present!



Family Voice & Choice

Family and youth perspectives are intentionally elicited and prioritized during all phases of the wraparound process. All planning includes family members' perspectives, and the team strives to provide options and choices to ensure the plan reflects family values and preferences. Family engagement comes with accountability and responsibility.

2nd Annual National Wraparound Academy

Pack your bags for "Advancing Systems, Enhancing the Workforce, Improving Outcomes" at the 2nd Annual National Wraparound Academy, hosted by the National Wraparound Implementation Center in partnership with the National Wraparound Initiative, September 19 - 21, 2016, in Rockville, MD at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel and Executive Meeting Center.

This three-day Academy will focus on implementation of high quality, research-based Wraparound care coordination and will provide individuals in key Wraparound roles with opportunities to learn from the field's foremost experts in Wraparound and systems of care.

Six Training Tracks: Foundations for Wraparound, Setting the Stage: Supervision for Care Coordination, Financing, Policy-Making, and Management, Supporting Youth and Young Adults in Wraparound, Building Skills in Parent Peer-to-Peer Support, Evaluation, Research, and Outcomes Management.

For registration or more conference information, go to <http://www.nwic.org/#/nwia/c1a0v>

Salute!

Submitted by

MS Children's Home Services Central Region

Kelvin is an 18 year old African American male and was admitted to MYPAC on July 2015. Kelvin was referred to the MYPAC program by his court appointed guardian. Kelvin was referred to MYPAC for disruptive behaviors at home and school.

Prior to Kelvin being referred to MYPAC, he had received services from several Community Counseling Centers stretching from Mississippi to Tennessee. Being the teenager of a mother who also battled with mental health issues, Kelvin was no stranger to the different systems that he and his siblings had to endure. Kelvin's mother was in no condition to raise her children as it was said that she often tried to harm them so Kelvin's father left and took his children with him. Kelvin's father remarried and it was then that Kelvin witnessed the sexual abuse of his siblings by his father. Once again, Kelvin had to make another transition; however, this time, Kelvin and his siblings were placed in the custody of his step mother. Stepmom has been in Kelvin's life since he was 10 years old. She and his father divorced and she voiced that she did not want to give up on the children so she accepted the responsibility to raise them until their father sought help for his illness.

Kelvin voiced feeling that he became everyone's whipping boy. Kelvin no longer wanted to hide in the shadows; he wanted a clean slate so during a DHS investigation, Kelvin was truthful and told the social worker what he had witnessed. When his siblings found out what Kelvin had done, they began to treat him differently. He felt they hated him, but he hoped what he had done would soon be for the best. He began to experience depression and started hating himself and everyone around him. Kelvin's stepmom reached out for help and she sought the help of their Bishop, as he was such a big part in their lives. This infuriated Kelvin even more and he became belligerent and combative. He voiced feeling as if there was no one capable of helping his "heart to stop hurting and bringing his family back." Kelvin was struggling to focus on school work as he thought everyone there knew his "dirty secret." He voiced feeling as if everyone there was talking about him when he passed by. He was angry at every adult female and treated them disrespectfully. He became combative towards his male teachers as he voiced they were telling him all the things he was doing wrong. He felt he could not get anything right. Kelvin gave up and voiced everyone else should give up on him as well.

Stepmom never gave up and quickly signed Kelvin up for services when she heard about the Mississippi Children's Home MYPAC Program. When the team was introduced, Kelvin was willing to work with them only to "shut his stepmom up." There was some hesitation from Kelvin, as he felt we were another service to come in and disrupt his family. Kelvin suggested that they give up as well. However, The MYPAC team informed Kelvin that they were different and they could show him how different way more than they could tell him. After wraparound was explained to the family and the importance of the family not doing this alone, Stepmom suggested involving the church's youth mentor. The Wraparound Facilitator and therapist met with school staff and invited the father and Bishop to strengthen the team. Kelvin was amazed at the people who supported his vision in wanting his family to be whole again. He started to include people on his team and he began to show progress and opened up to the team. The Youth Mentor saluted Kelvin for taking OWNERSHIP of his life.

Kelvin was showing so much progress at school, they were considering allowing him to have senior privileges. He was praised by his teachers for making up so much work so quickly. With life looking better now for the family, they knew nothing could stop them now. Until one day, their home burned and the family lost everything. Kelvin ended up with his father. Not being able to see the strength in this at first, Kelvin voiced that through the help of his team and his strategies, he was able to forgive his father.

The fire showed Kelvin that there was still more work to be done. Kelvin's sister moved back home. She and Kelvin were not on speaking terms because she accused him of breaking up the family. The tension in the home was unbearable for Kelvin; he began to get combative once again. With the help of the team, Kelvin was reminded of his strengths and his successes thus far. Kelvin's sister was also informed that she was not just needed for the team, but their family. The team doubled up on phone calls and visits to ensure all was well with the family. With the sister now on the team, there was more understanding as she was able to see what it was Kelvin wanted for his whole family. She was able to work through the process of forgiving what had happened and she wanted Kelvin to forgive her as well. The team saluted Kelvin for sticking his neck out.

Kelvin began to climb to all new heights as he had gotten so much off his chest. He was able to talk to his father freely. He and his sister had each other's back. Kelvin began to do well in school once more. He was struggling in Math and seemed frustrated. But it was Kelvin who called a meeting at the school and invited the new Math teacher. He was able to sit and talk about his frustrations without getting loud or angry. The team rallied around him. Kelvin was given another chance because the school staff and his team believed in him. Plus he had such a compelling argument! He was given all of his work and he assured everyone that he would get it done. The team saluted Kelvin for using his VOICE.

Here we are now, Kelvin's senior year and a bright future within his reach. The team was ready to hear the verdict. We all waited patiently with hope. Kelvin did not lose his smile, even after hearing the news that he may not graduate. He voiced he knew he was in a better place. Kelvin's talk was different, his smile was different, and his confidence was out of this world! He voiced pride in himself no matter what.

He was so thankful to everyone who supported him that he invited them to his graduation not knowing the outcome. On graduation day at Kelvin's High School, the Superintendent called out KELVIN!!!!!! There were shouts and tears and hugs all around! The family did it and Kelvin made it! Kelvin left the school that day with hope and the biggest smile. By the end of the week, Kelvin had set up two interviews with two colleges and he had two job interviews. Way to go Kelvin...WE SALUTE YOU!

Wraparound Trainings

August

8/10
Analysis to Wraparound
Family Story
Family Network Partnership
208 Alcorn Avenue
Hattiesburg MS 39401

September

9/13-15
Introduction to Wraparound
Hinds Regional Medicaid Office
5360 I-55 North
Jackson MS

October

8/17
Analysis to Wraparound
Family Story
ICC - Belden Campus
3200 Adams Farm Road
Belden MS 38804

10/18
Engagement in Wraparound
Hinds Regional Medicaid Office
5360 I-55 North
Jackson MS

For more information about training opportunities or TA contact wrap@usm.edu or to register go to cutlass.usm.edu/MSWRAP/