



DCF Child Profiles Project

Gabriel Myers Workgroup

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Purpose of the Profiles

- Provide real-life individual case studies of a sample of children in out-of-home care who are on psychotropic medications
- Supplement the data that has been provided to the Gabriel Myers Workgroup by “telling the story” of these children—who they are, their life experiences thus far, why they are on medication, how they are doing now



Sampling Methodology

- **Purposive sample: a sample that is consciously selected by the researcher based on a set of a priori concerns; typically used in qualitative research studies**
- **Sample of 12 children plus 4 back up files**
- **4 sampling criteria:**
 - ◆ **Geographic location**
 - ◆ **Age of child**
 - ◆ **Number of psychotropic medications**
 - ◆ **Mental health treatment**



Sampling Criteria

- Geographic location: North, South, Central
- Age ranges: 5-8, 9-12, 13-18
- # of psychotropic medications: 1, >1
- Mental health treatment: Yes, No
 - ◆ Mental health treatment defined as therapeutic foster care, residential treatment, SIPP, group home

Sample Cells

<u>Site Central</u> N= 6	<u>Age 5-8</u> N= 5	<u>Medication > 1</u> N= 8	<u>Treatment Yes</u> N= 8
<u>Site North</u> N= 5	<u>Age 9-12</u> N= 6	<u>Medication 1</u> N= 8	<u>Treatment No</u> N= 8
<u>Site South</u> N=5	<u>Age 13-18</u> N= 5		



Study Team

- Seven FMHI staff with expertise in
 - ◆ Previous experience as a child protection case manager
 - ◆ Clinical expertise and background
 - ◆ Review of case records



Guiding Rules

- Child-centered
- No clinical judgments
- Not a critique of how the case was handled, the case manager, or the system
- No identification of patterns, themes, data interpretation, or conclusions
- No recommendations
- Simply “paint the picture” of each child

Method

- Sample selection by FMHI
- DCF sent FMHI the FSFN data for each child in the sample (12 plus 4)
- FMHI study team member reviewed the FSFN record and then contacted the child's case manager to verify current status and learn more about the child's strengths, interests, skills
- Use of a protocol outline to present each child's profile



The Story of Wynona

- Wynona is 8 years old who lives with a foster family. She is very creative; she can crochet and loves to make beaded jewelry and do other arts and crafts.
- Wynona has just finished the first grade and will be entering 2nd grade in fall 2010. Currently she has no behavior problems at school. In February 2009 she was having trouble reading independently; she may receive some educational supports to assist with reading skills.



The Story of Wynona

- Wynona's current permanency goal is adoption although both her biological mother and father can visit her. A Termination of Parental Rights legal proceeding was initiated but both parents entered denials. As of June 2009 the TPR proceedings have been "abated".
- Wynona and her younger brother were removed from home in July 2007 due to threatened harm related to inadequate supervision and substance misuse. There were 3 prior verified abuse reports and at the time of removal there was an open case pending adjudication.
- Since her removal from home Wynona has been in six placements, the longest being 14 months. Other placements ranged from two days to 3 months.



The Story of Wynona

- Wynona's mother and father have mental health problems and both parents have several Baker Act initiations.
- Wynona has twice-monthly supervised visits with her mother; father visits from time to time.
- Wynona has a diagnosis of ADHD and is prescribed Adderall. She was previously prescribed both Adderall and Seraquel but was taken off Seraquel in 2008. Wynona was referred for counseling in February 2009 which has not yet started.