

REDDING

Wraparound Interagency Network For Growth And Stability (Wings)

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Mission: To work with high-risk wards of the court and their families to reduce youth crime and increase school attendance, performance and youth functioning within the home, school and community.

Overview: WINGS is an intensive strength-based program that uses a family-treatment team approach to target youth and family problems and needs that contribute to delinquency. It is a collaboration of Shasta County's juvenile probation and mental health programs. WINGS families are affected by diagnosed mental disorders and some level of learning disabilities or severe substance use. Behaviors usually consist of verbal abuse, physical violence, acting-out sexually, substance abuse, family chaos, school problems or suicide threats. WINGS provides families with high levels of supervision, support and contact by treatment teams that include family members, school staff, therapists, probation officers, church members, mentors and family partners. Treatment modalities include individual, family, group and milieu.

Results:

- School attendance increased by 55 percent
- CAFAS scores measuring risk level decreased by 25 percent
- Access to mental health services increased by 25 percent
- Days in kinship care increased by 290 percent
- Recidivism decreased
- Eighty-five percent of youth and 80 percent of parents reported satisfaction
- Program saved the county an estimated \$548,033 by keeping troubled youth at home from August 2001 through 2003

Key Elements of Success:

- Wraparound approach using family treatment team
- Collaboration between mental health and probation professionals
- Teamwork in crisis intervention and decision making

Target Population: The Shasta County WINGS program serves wards of the court ages 17 or under. The caseload is limited to 30 families, and participants must have a diagnosed mental health condition that substantially contributes to delinquency behavior.

Evaluation:

- WINGS collects satisfaction questionnaire data from consumers to measure families' perceptions of youths' progress
- CAFAS reassessments every six months
- Tracking of data demonstrating youths' ability to function in school