Hello to all involved in the “National Wraparound Initiative”! We wanted to give you a quick update as well as a heads-up about some things to come. As you will read, we will be sending you a first product of the Initiative very soon, and asking for your feedback by February 25th. We are also looking forward to a possible meeting in San Francisco before the Training Institutes, and will be asking for your opinion on possible best dates… Read on…

UPDATE:
1. Meeting in San Antonio
2. Website development underway

THINGS TO COME:
1. Wraparound principles coming to you for review and feedback
2. Presentation in Florida
3. Meeting in San Francisco?

UPDATE:

1. MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO

Members of the “coordinating committee” of the National Wraparound Initiative met in San Antonio from January 16-17, after the winter system of care grantee meetings. Those present included Janet Walker, Eric Bruns, Pat Miles, John VanDenBerg, Jane Adams, and Trina Osher. Also present were Corrie Edwards, who works with Jane Adams at Keys for Networking in Kansas. Steve Rosenthal, of the University of Colorado (working with Vroon VanDenBerg to conduct a research project in Colorado), was also present as an observer.

The group discussed its progress over the past three months. During this time, working together and individually, group members have been working on several products relevant to clarifying what constitutes a high-quality wraparound process:

1. Reviewing articles, monographs, and program materials to distill the foundational principles of wraparound as expressed for an individual family or team;
2. Compiling program and training materials that describe the sequence or array of typical steps and phases of the wraparound process, including the specific activities that occur within these steps and phases;
3. Conducting literature reviews on service delivery, organizational and system context, and team processes, to help illuminate the evidence that ties wraparound process activities to positive outcomes for families;
4. Using existing wraparound training manuals and program materials to compose a glossary of relevant “wraparound terms.”
The major agenda item for this meeting was how best to prepare documents from these different threads of work to get feedback from members of the national advisory group, such as yourself. One output of the meeting was a plan and timeline for getting to that point on all the above components.

2. WEBSITE

One main approach we have proposed to keeping all participants in the Initiative connected is a website, to be maintained at the Research and Training Center at Portland State University. Components of the site will include information on the Initiative, basic information about Wraparound, and links to relevant sites elsewhere. In addition, the website will provide a way for the “coordinating committee” to present materials and documents to the larger group for feedback, ratings, and so forth, via a Delphi process. We hope to have the website up and running in this way within the next month. A basic schematic of the site is presented below. If you have any ideas about potential uses or design of the site, please let Eric know, at ebruns@psych.umd.edu, or 410-328-0731.

THINGS TO COME:

1. FIRST OPPORTUNITIES FOR GETTING REVIEW AND FEEDBACK

We are excited about the prospect of some initial rounds of feedback on the materials listed above. Ultimately, this consensus-building process will be greatly
facilitated through use of the interactive website. However, since the site is not yet ready, we will first ‘pilot’ a Delphi process via email.

The first document we will be submitting for your review and feedback is a new iteration of the wraparound principles that emerged from the Duke University gathering in 1998. This new iteration attempts to clarify these principles, and make them specific to an individual team and family. Per discussion at the Portland meeting last year, we believe this new iteration will then allow us to tie specific program- and system-level supports to each principle at the team level. This will be one way to get us toward our goal of clarifying for the field what a high-quality wraparound process looks like, and what is necessary to achieve it.

Janet Walker from the Research and Training Center at Portland State will be leading this ‘pilot’ Delphi process for getting feedback from the national group. So be on the lookout for an upcoming message from Janet (janetw@pdx.edu) and further messages from Kathryn Schutte (Research Associate at the RTC; kschutte@pdx.edu) about this first document!

2. PRESENTATION IN FLORIDA

We also thought it would be good for folks involved in the initiative to know that there will be a ‘Topical Discussion’ on the National Wraparound Initiative at the 17th Annual Research Conference in Tampa. The presentation will be at 3pm on Monday, March 1. The topical discussion format will allow us to present the rationale, proposed methods, and initial activities of the Initiative, followed by an extensive period of feedback and discussion with session attendees. We will be sure to send the presentation, as well as notes from the discussion that follows, around to the group (and post it to the website).

3. GETTING TOGETHER IN SAN FRANCISCO?

In anticipation that many members of the national advisory group will be in San Francisco for the bi-annual Training Institutes in June, we’re thinking that this may present an opportunity to convene a second full-day meeting. The Training Institutes run from 4pm on Wednesday June 23 through Sunday June 27. [On June 22 there are pre-Institutes meetings for Systems of Care Communities, and on June 23, there is an orientation to the Institutes from 1:30 – 3:30.]

We think that it would be great to have a ‘progress report’ type meeting of all who might be able to attend on one of these days, Tuesday June 22 or Wednesday June 23. If you have any thoughts on whether you prefer one of these days over the other (or another day altogether), please let us know via ebruns@psych.umaryland.edu. Thanks! I will be sure to send around another announcement about this possible meeting date soon.

4. REMEMBERING JOHN BURCHARD
As many of you already know, John Burchard, Wraparound researcher and pioneer and champion for the health and well being of children and families, died of heart failure at his home in Vermont on January 18th, 2004, surrounded by his family and loved ones.\(^1\) John was a primary innovator in the area of promoting quality in Wraparound, and as such, we will carry on the National Wraparound Initiative in his memory.

OK, thanks for putting up with these long communications, and we look forward to some more active engagement with you all soon!

**Eric Bruns**  
**Janet Walker**  
**Nancy Koroloff**  
Co-Coordinators, National Wraparound Initiative

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\(^1\) To read John’s obituary, you can go to  