

EPCC NEWS

JC Accredited
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Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
"Helping Children SOAR"

Shorter Length of Stay

One of the goals related to the SAMHSA grant for the reduction of the use of seclusion and restraint is to shorten the length of stay. This goal is linked to the SOAR program which was implemented in June 2008 and teaches children social skills that will help them succeed in all environments and situations throughout life. SOAR, in conjunction with needed medication, therapy, and leisure activities, helps the child transition back into the community and be successful.

Children who were admitted in the year 2008 were discharged within six months, which was the specific goal. Follow up surveys three months after discharge indicated the children were doing well in their discharge placements. A typical length of stay prior to the implementation of SOAR was 10-12 months.

"We are confident that the SOAR program, along with the other components of treatment, will continue to support shorter hospitalizations for the children of Indiana who come to us for services," says Lottie Cook, Superintendent.

EPCC's goal has always been to get the children back into the community as soon as they are able to function in a less restrictive environment. The success experienced in 2008 indicates that shorter stays are effective and can be accomplished.

(For referral information, see back page.)

Artistic Family Fun

EPCC family night was an activity for the children and their families. Dinner and activities were on the schedule, and the evening was facilitated by the therapists.

Eight families enjoyed pizza, thanks to donations that covered the cost. All families joined in the painting project by painting sections of a mural which has since been hung in the Administration Lobby for everyone to enjoy.

The kites and hot air balloon represent the SOAR program (Social Opportunity to Achieve Recovery) that is an integral part of overall treatment.



*Administration lobby mural painted by
EPCC children and families*

SAMHSA Grant Activities

Grant activities continue. The SRED form (seclusion and restraint data matrix) monthly submission is ongoing.

Training for all staff has included Roadmap to Recovery, Boys Town Psychoeducational Model (SOAR), Cultural Competence, Trauma Informed Care. EPCC has in-house trainers for Cultural Competence, SOAR, and Trauma Informed Care.

To date, the impact of grant activities has been positive. Staff have prevented the need for seclusion and restraint resulting in an over 80% overall reduction in incidents. Use of the SOAR program (psychoeducational model) has provided role modeling and teaching and improved staff relationships with the children.

The recent NTAC site visit resulted in comments about the "stellar" program and excellent staff at EPCC. The surveying team was impressed with the staff-child relationships and interactions, the involvement of families, and the overall program.

Do You Know...

...of any individuals, groups, or organizations that would be interested in donating to the Recreation Fund at EPCC? This money funds special activities and the opportunity to participate in community events, as well as the purchase of arts and crafts supplies, magazine subscriptions, birthday gifts, and any other day-to-day needs that will enhance the children's stay during treatment. Call Tamara Klausmeier, 477-6436-x232 for more information or send donations to EPCC Rec Fund, 3300 E. Morgan, Evansville, IN 47715.

Therapeutic Horseback Riding

The children are once again enjoying therapeutic horseback riding at Stir-'n-Up Hope. Each week the staff and children ride and care for the horses. Goals include teaching nurturing skills, postural control and balance, developing trust, and building confidence and self esteem. Many children have never had the opportunity to be close to or ride a horse, and they really enjoy being part of the program.



Melody Harrell, MSW Intern at EPCC, poses with Kai – one of four horses ready to greet and enjoy some special attention from the children.

MISSION
Resolve Needs – Build Strengths

Need to contact us?
Call 812-477-6436 (exts. listed below) or email.

- Lottie Cook, Supt (231)lottie.cook@fssa.in.gov
- Stephanie McKeethen, Adm. Sec (230).....stephanie.mckeethen@fssa.in.gov
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- Kim Arvin, SW (238).....kimberly.arvin@fssa.in.gov
- Nichole Graham, SW (239)nichole.graham@fssa.in.gov

Good News

- 👍 Grant activities and the implementation of SOAR have resulted in a continuous decrease in the use of seclusion and restraint.
- 👍 **It's a great time to make referrals because beds are available for all ages.**
- 👍 EPCC has been an integral part in over 1150 children's recovery process over the past 43 years.



We're Ready for Your Referrals

Refer through the assigned liaison from your MHC. Referral information needed in the referral packet includes:

- Psychology Eval with IQ
- 2-page State Hospital Referral Form
- CANS
- Psychiatric Evaluation

Contact Sharon Austin at 812-477-6436, X226

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Published periodically for employees and friends of EPCC.



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