



For Immediate Release
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New Initiative For Children Unveiled In Montgomery County

A new program designed to help children with serious emotional, behavioral and mental health needs and their families will begin this month according to Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services ADAMHS). It's called Children Matter! Montgomery County (CMMC) and it will provide "wraparound" services to children ages five to 14 who have complex mental health diagnoses and involvement with the juvenile justice system.

CMMC is the result of a \$3 million federal grant awarded to Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. It will serve between 200-225 children over four years by creating a single point of contact, a child advocate, for coordinating care across all child-serving entities. Modeled after the "Wraparound Milwaukee Program," the ultimate goal is to avoid service duplications while improving health outcomes.

"The wraparound philosophy and approach focuses on strength-based, individualized care. It is not treatment," said ADAMHS Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley. "Combined with a unique organizational structure, this will deliver a comprehensive and flexible array of services to youth and their families to reduce the use of institutional-based care such as residential treatment centers and inpatient psychiatric hospitals while providing more services in the community and in the child's home."

More than half of the children in the program are diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder, a clinical term for unruly behaviors that usually involve non-violent offenses such as truancy, vandalism and theft.

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