



PROMISING PRACTICES

Alexandria

Collaboration between Child Welfare, Mental Health & Others

Headlines—What your community did/services that were created:

- Effective partnerships resulted in the development of the Child Assessment & Treatment Center for Health (CATCH)
- Visionary leadership led to the development of the Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC), a child advocacy center that houses investigative, treatment and prevention staff, in January 2007

Goals and Incentives; Leverage Points:

- Federal Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act as amended and reauthorized in 2003
- The tragic and highly publicized death of a three year old girl in foster care in December 2000
- The impending increase in the match rates for out-of-community care funded by CSA and ongoing education that community-based services support permanency for children.

Barriers:

- Funding
- The CAC had difficulty with finding the right person to direct the center; was also difficult to find the right behavioral health staff

Strategies for overcoming barriers:

- We brought in a consultant to help us clarify around roles & responsibilities.
- Continued cross agency communications and meetings to hash out policies and procedures.

Strategies for Continuous Quality Improvement:

- Senior managers meet with staff on a quarterly basis
- A Board consisting of private citizens and City officials oversee the CAC
- We hired Michael Terkeltaub, the former CSA Coordinator from Hampton, to consult with us on creative means of supporting youth who have been in RTC in the community

Funding:

- A variety of funding sources support these programs – some local funding, some private donations, Medicaid and ongoing grant funding from DMHMRSAS



Resources for more information:

- Deborah Warren, DCSW, Director of Child, Family & Prevention Services, Alexandria Community Services Board - deborah.warren@alexandriava.gov
- Suzanne Chis, MSW, Director of Social Services, Alexandria Department of Human Services, suzanne.chis@alexandriava.gov