



Georgia's KidsNet A System of Care

Where it all started

1999: SAMHSA awards Rockdale County a 6-year grant to develop a system of care for kids with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED)

2003: SAMHSA awards Georgia a 6-year grant to develop state-level infrastructure (policies, training, financing) for that system of care

2004: Georgia becomes one of only 3 states to be awarded a second infrastructure development grant ... this one to develop state-level support for a system of care approach to kids with drug and alcohol problems

2005: SAMHSA approves Georgia's proposal to match with State funds the remaining \$1M federal funds in Rockdale's grant and expand KidsNet into 12 other counties. State funds come from DHR and DJJ.

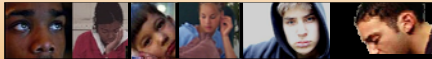
2008: ... to be continued ...

What is the need in Georgia?



2,452,225 Georgia children & youth from birth to age 17

183,917 – about 7.5% -- have some form of SED



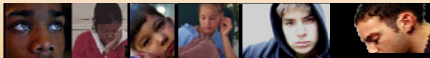
HOW MANY ARE BEING SERVED IN GEORGIA?

3,197 in residential treatment (DJJ)
1,988 in group homes, residential care (DFCS)
1,659 in short term hospital care (DMHDDAD)
1,598 in institutions (DFCS)
22 in long-term hospital care (DMHDDAD)

Where are SED kids treated now?



Kids with multiple problems likely need services from multiple agencies...each treating one part of the syndrome in a separate case.



CHILDHOOD HISTORY

Physically abused	42%	Runaway	39%
Psychiatric hospital	24%	Suicide attempt	24%
Sexually abused	30%	Substance abuse	11.5%

Consequently, kids can slip through the cracks between compartmentalized providers... into the *deepest end of the System*: residential care, hospitalization, detention.

Where there's a Kid, there's a Family



The family may be facing their own issues ...

- Alcohol/substance abuse
- Child neglect/abuse
- Domestic violence
- Mental illness
- Criminal activity, parent in prison



Where to turn




Where to turn?KidsNet



In 1999 Rockdale County joined a national network of communities forging a multi-agency **System of Care**.

It's a circle of services with a family at the center.



Georgia's KidsNet:

What is it?

A community-based process for delivering mental health services to children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED).

What does it do?



Intervenes to prevent out-of-home placement for children identified as high-risk for placement

Who does it?

Staff from DHR & DJJ, family members, Juvenile Court Judges, school teachers, counselors, MH service providers

PROFILE OF SED

- Lack of self-control
- Defiant
- Difficulty getting along with others
- Depressed or suicidal
- Dysfunctional family life
- In & out of child services
- Impaired ability to learn
- Low self-esteem
- NOT typically delinquent

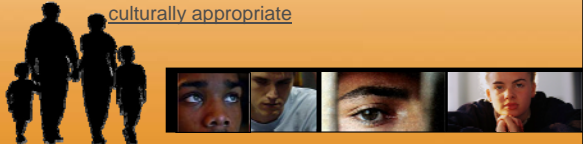



How KidsNet is different from other mental health services...



KidsNet is directed by a process theory that believes outcomes are better for children, youth and families when services are provided...

- in community-based, least restrictive environments
- through interagency coordination and collaboration
- in ways that are family-driven, youth-guided and culturally appropriate



How does KidsNet work?



- 1 Parent, school or agency refers child to KidsNet
- 2 KidsNet Coordinator sends Family Advocate to meet, assist, and assess eligibility
- 3 Family is assigned the Case Manager who works with them beginning to end

- 4 KidsNet Team comes together:
- Case Manager
 - Family Advocate
 - Child and Family Members
 - Agencies/Service providers

- 5 A Unified Service Plan – a single, collaborative treatment plan -- is agreed upon
- 6 The entire team meets weekly to keep the plan on track and to evaluate progress



All the difference ...

"Because of KidsNet, our family is starting to come together."



Key KidsNet Staff

- **Service Coordinator** contacts providers
- **Family Advocate** guides, assists family
- **Case Manager** stays on top of plan, outcomes
- **Mental Health Clinician** screens child for Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- **Behavioral Aide** assists with social skills

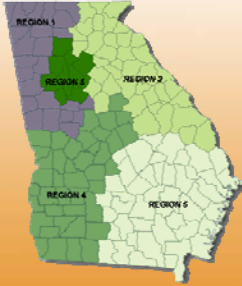


Care planning

- Comprehensive, consistent, coordinated, collaborative
- Assembles all the right resources, public & private
- Unified Service Plan and case report follows the child
- Pool of flexible funds for creative solutions -- e.g., camps, learning tools

All the right people are gathered around the same table with the same goals.

Spreading the Net: KidsNet in 2007/2008



- REGION 1**
 - Haralson
 - Polk
 - Floyd
 - Dade
 - Walker
 - Bartow
 - Paulding
- REGION 2**
 - Newton
- REGION 3**
 - Rockdale
 - Fulton (partial)
 - Gwinnett (partial)
 - Douglas (partial)
- REGION 4**
- REGION 5**
 - Savannah

Is System of Care an effective approach?



YES. Here are results of a national study of 121 programs, including KidsNet Rockdale:

Bad indicators went down

- Inpatient hospital days and rates
- Placement in juvenile detention, other secure facilities
- Arrests
- Suicide-related behaviors

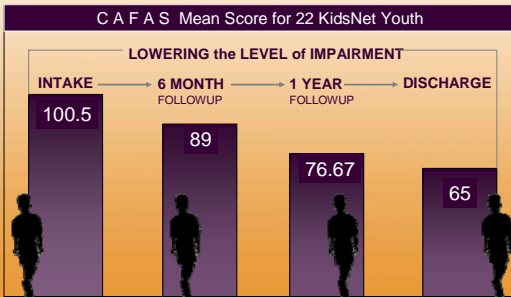
Good indicators went up

- School attendance and achievement
- Child & Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale
- Sustained mental health improvements
- Family stability – employment, living arrangements

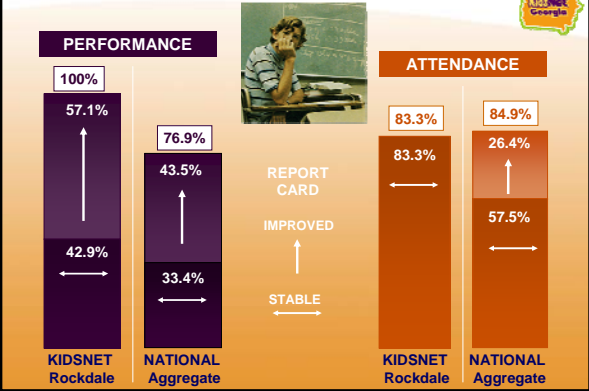
KidsNet Outcome



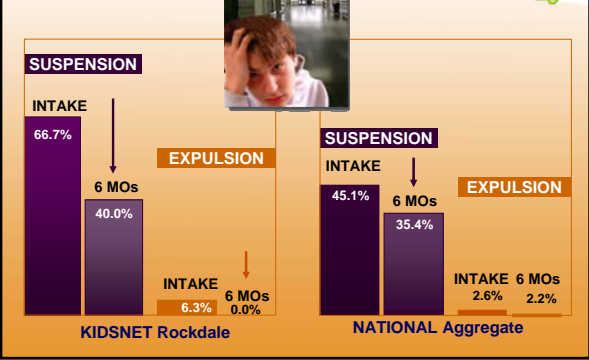
The Child & Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale assesses the degree of impairment in functioning due to emotional, behavioral, or psychiatric problems.



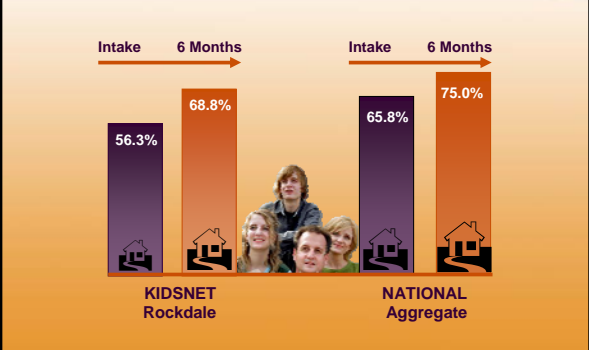
School Progress: Intake to 6 months



School Suspensions & Expulsions: Intake to 6 months



Living in One Home: Intake to 6 months

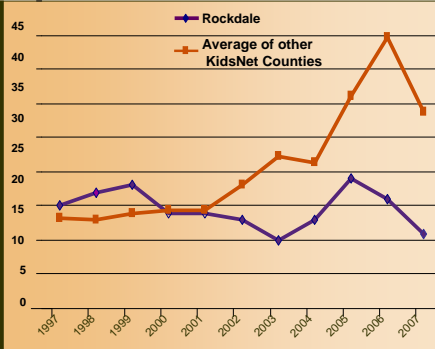


Out-of-Home Placements for Rockdale and other KidsNet Counties



Residential or Out-of-Home Placements:

Rockdale & Other KidsNet Counties



From Financial Mapping Study:



"In FY06 **55% of expenditures** across the four major State spending agencies (not including education) is being spent on restrictive levels of care for about **6% of the total population of youth** receiving behavioral health services."

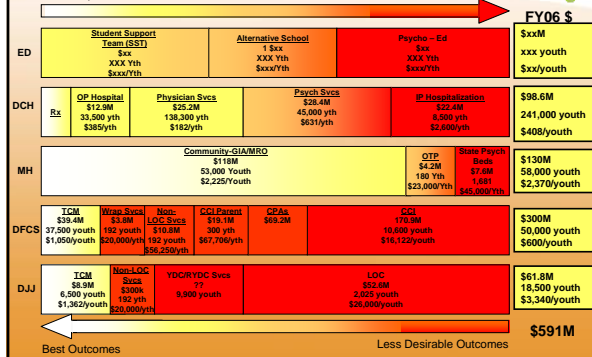
"Key supportive **home and community-based services** available under the Medicaid Rehab Option are **not being widely authorized and utilized**: e.g., crisis services, respite, peer support, family support and education."

Georgia's Treatment System (\$\$)



Less Expensive

More Expensive



What people are saying ...



Sometimes I thought I wasn't going to make it but KidsNet has brought my son and me a long way.
--Parent, KidsNet Rockdale

I have a better attitude about life! I'm not as impulsive in my decision making. - Youth

It's helped me learn a bunch of things.
It's helped me through my past.
Teen-ager, Savannah

KidsNet is "straight". They help keep me out of trouble and they are there for me.
-- Youth, KidsNet Rockdale

If I weren't with y'all, I would be back in juvenile for hanging out with that crowd.
L. A., KidsNet Newton

I never thought this family would ever be considered for having their kids placed back in the home.
DFCS-Newton

The System of Care information and referrals have become an intricate part of my considerations in making dispositional decisions relating to treatment and rehabilitation of our children.
Billy J. Waters, Juvenile Court Judge,
Alcovy Judicial Circuit, KidsNet Newton
