

## Safe at Home's Third Annual Fidelity Assessment Shows Promising Results

*Submitted by Sara Ryan, M.A., Research Analyst II, Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.*

Safe at Home West Virginia's independent third-party evaluator, Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. (a Public Consulting Group, Inc. company), recently completed data collection for the third annual fidelity assessment of the Safe at Home wraparound model. The purpose of this yearly assessment is to measure the extent to which Local Coordinating Agencies (LCAs) are providing Safe at Home services with fidelity to the wraparound model (a promising evidence-based practice set forth by the National Wraparound Initiative), as well as compliance to West Virginia's additional standards and timeframes.



The results of the assessment will be summarized in a statewide report, and each of the 10 LCAs will receive a separate report. Where fidelity standards, timeframes, or other Safe at Home requirements are not met, LCAs will work with DHHR to develop Program Improvement Plans outlining how they intend to improve their service delivery to ensure that the program is being implemented in the way it is intended.

Thirty Safe at Home cases were randomly selected in proportion to the number of youth served by each LCA. In addition, each of the 10 LCAs were asked to select one case from their agency where the youth had successfully completed Safe at Home to give reviewers an opportunity to examine cases that had completed all four phases of wraparound. For each of the 40 cases selected in total, the record was reviewed at the LCA office and the wraparound facilitator, DHHR caseworker, youth, and a caregiver from each case were invited to participate in in-person interviews.

Staff from Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. completed a case record review for all 40 cases along with interviews of 93 stakeholders (inclusive of 28 wraparound facilitators, 23 DHHR caseworkers, 21 youth, and 21 caregivers). The interviews with some of the wraparound facilitators and DHHR caseworkers, who manage more than one of the selected cases, were condensed into a single interview, covering each of their cases at the time of the interview. The data collection this year would not have been as successful as it ultimately was without the strong collaboration that exists among Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc., the LCAs, and DHHR.

Preliminary results indicate that LCAs' adherence to model and program fidelity is high (with some minor exceptions noted); implementing the program and carrying out practices as intended should be regarded as one of the greatest strengths of Safe at Home. Last year, stakeholders reported that the relationships between facilitators and youth, the collaborative team approach, and the model's emphasis on youth and family voice and choice were but a few of the factors that contributed to case success. While the evaluators are excited to more thoroughly examine the data for this most recent assessment, preliminary results appear to be promising.

## Safe at Home Helps Youth Successfully Transition from a Residential Placement

*Submitted by Ashley Kimble, DHHR Child Protective Services Worker*

A\* was at an in-state residential placement after missing more than 60 days of school, failing every class, and multiple physically aggressive events with her peers and her guardian who is also her grandfather. Nearing the end of her placement, I referred her to Safe at Home West Virginia to help her transition to her home. At first, the youth was combative and fell into old patterns of missing school; however, after several weeks of meeting with her wraparound facilitator, she agreed to continue Safe at Home and attend counseling services.



At the end of the school year, A had attended almost every day of school with no instances of aggression. This was celebrated among her team. Over the summer, the wraparound facilitator worked on maintaining routine, preparing for the next school year, and linked the youth to a mentor who also provides tutoring.

This school year is off to a great start for A. She is striving to make the honor roll and wants to outperform her last school year. Her motivation and desire have truly been enhanced by Safe at Home and working with her wraparound facilitator.

*\*Name left out for privacy of Safe at Home youth.*

## Safe at Home Hosts Second Annual Putnam Pool Party

*Submitted by Wayne Bailey, Safe at Home Supervisor, Children's Home Society of West Virginia*



Safe at Home West Virginia hosted its Second Annual Putnam Pool Party with youth and their families, Judge Stowers, DHHR, Putnam Probation and a host of Safe at Home providers from a variety of agencies.

Participants played corn hole and enjoyed the pool and DJ. There were two tables full of gift baskets and fully loaded backpacks for the youth to take home. The event introduced the Gino's Truck with a wide range of Gino's and Tudors food items. "Splash" shirts were worn to commemorate the event.

The party was a wonderful opportunity for professionals to see kids being kids. Equally important, it was an opportunity for families and youth to see how much those involved in Safe at Home West Virginia care about their success. We are looking forward to hosting the Third Annual Putnam Pool Party in August 2019.

