



## **Johnson Foundation Convening Aims to Build Systems of Care for Children and Youth Facing Mental Health Challenges**

*Leading university and pioneering Wisconsin program seek improvements to providing care for children and families*

RACINE, Wis. (October 16, 2013) – The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, the Milwaukee County Wraparound Program (Wraparound Milwaukee), and the Georgetown University National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health (Georgetown TA Center), welcomed 25 representatives from various states and communities to a two-day training and discussion focused on implementing effective, community-based systems of care for children, youth and young adults with mental health challenges and their families.

The conference, *Implementing Effective Systems of Care for Youth with Mental Health Challenges and Their Families in the New Environment: A Curriculum for State and Community Leaders*, is the second conference at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread to explore best practices for providing integrated systems of care within the context of health care reform.

"This conference strongly aligns with our children's mental health initiative and commitment to work with community partners to address the unmet mental health needs of local children," said Ashley Staeck, Senior Community Program Associate at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. "Our work has found that coordinated systems like this one have the greatest impact on a community."

Modeled after successful approaches used by Wraparound Milwaukee, an award-winning program within Milwaukee County's Department of Health and Human Services, the training and discussion will provide participants with knowledge and skills for reforming policy and service delivery in dynamic, real-world environments.

"This conference is an active approach to helping states and communities implement effective, community-based systems of care for children, youth and young adults with mental health challenges and their families," said Bruce Kamradt, Director of Wraparound Milwaukee. "We appreciate the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread's support for this event and look forward to working with the Georgetown TA Center to deploy this training to create systemic, national solutions."

The Georgetown University National TA Center for Children's Mental Health is part of the Center for Child and Human Development within the University Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics and has been dedicated to improving mental

health services for children and their families since 1984. The TA Center has taken a national leadership role in addressing the mental health needs of children, youth and their families at the policy, research, training/consultation and direct service levels.

“Throughout our history, we have approached the challenges involved in system change by providing proactive leadership, developing innovative technical assistance strategies, and establishing key partnerships,” said James Wotring, Director of the Georgetown TA Center. “We are delighted to be collaborating with the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread and Wraparound Milwaukee to advance best practices and continuously shape the field of children’s mental health service delivery.”

The conference, which is limited to a small number of representatives from invited states and communities, will provide training and discussion based on the system of care approach, which has served as the cornerstone and framework for reform in children’s mental health over the past 25 years. Conference participants were selected after a competitive review process and consist of various local and state mental health and health leaders.

Wraparound Milwaukee and the Georgetown TA Center will work with participants following the training to provide continued support and on-site technical assistance as they return to their states and communities to begin implementing system change.

###

**Media Contact:**

Deborah Gladney  
[dmuhwezi@outreachstrategies.com](mailto:dmuhwezi@outreachstrategies.com)  
202-754-8036

Bruce Kamradt  
Director, Wraparound Milwaukee  
414-737-3849  
[bruce.kamradt@milwcnty.com](mailto:bruce.kamradt@milwcnty.com)

James Wotring  
Director, National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health  
202-687-5052 or 586-612-8117  
[jrw59@georgetown.edu](mailto:jrw59@georgetown.edu)

Joan Dodge  
Senior Policy Associate, National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health  
202-687-5054  
[dodgej@georgetown.edu](mailto:dodgej@georgetown.edu)

### **About Wraparound Milwaukee**

A Special Managed Care Entity within Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division, the Wraparound Milwaukee program is designed to provide comprehensive, individualized and cost effective care to children with complex mental health and emotional needs. Winner of a 2009 Innovation in American Government Award from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University, Wraparound Milwaukee currently serves nearly 1100 families living in Milwaukee County who have a child who has serious emotional or mental health needs and is at immediate risk of placement in a residential treatment center, juvenile correctional facility or psychiatric hospital. For additional information, please visit [www.county.milwaukee.gov/WraparoundMilwaukee](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/WraparoundMilwaukee).

### **About the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health**

The National Technical Assistance (TA) Center for Children's Mental Health is located within Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development and is an integral part of the Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics. The Center has been dedicated to improving services for children and their families since its inception in 1984 and is committed to a broad view of mental health focusing on individuals from birth to young adulthood, and their families. To this end, the Center's work focuses on the promotion of positive mental health and treatment for all children through the creation of state and community systems of care that assure needed services and supports for children, youth and young adults with mental health challenges and their families. For additional information, please visit [gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu](http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu).

### **About The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread**

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit [www.johnsonfdn.org](http://www.johnsonfdn.org).