

**Van Buren  
Community Mental Health Authority**

**Ends Monitoring Report**

**February 2019**

**SUBJECT: Children with Developmental Disabilities & Serious Emotional Disturbances**

**POLICY: There will be improved functioning in children and their families whose functioning is impaired by developmental disability or a mental/emotional condition.**

**For children there will be improvement in their:**

- a. Functioning**
- b. School performance**
- c. Participation in their community**
- d. Overall family functioning**

This is the tenth year of monitoring reports on the Children's End cited above and the interpretation of the end cited below.

The current report provides data collected by Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) using the Youth Services Survey (YSS.) (In April 2019, results from other outcome data collected for youth served will be reported.)

***CEO Interpretation: (Portions addressed in current report are highlighted in yellow)***

***Improved functioning*** means that families of children served will indicate the child has improved functioning and outcomes as indicated by a validated instrument.

***Improved school performance*** means that children served in intensive programs will demonstrate improvement in grades and school attendance according to school records. Families of children served will indicate improved school performance.

***Improved participation in their community*** means that families and children served will indicate higher levels of social connection in their community. Additionally, children served in intensive programs will increase the number of community activities in which they participate.

***Improved overall family functioning*** means that families served will indicate satisfaction with family life, and having social and family supports. Additionally, families served in intensive services will have fewer substantiated abuse and neglect issues.

***Monitoring report***

***Youth Services Survey***

The Youth Services Survey (YSS) developed by the Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program was the instrument used to determine improvement in the areas of outcomes, improved functioning and social connectedness and family life. The YSS was chosen because it has been validated as a meaningful instrument; it is in the public domain and thus free to use; and it is recommended by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency. VBCMh administered the survey to families served annually from 2009-2014. From 2015-present, SWMBH utilized the YSS and completed it with customers for all CMHs in the region. SWMBH's administration includes more domains such as the satisfaction with services domain of the YSS. SWMBH randomly selected a sample of youth who received services at VBCMh. However, in the past two years, the number of VBCMh served families surveyed declined and the VBCMh sample size in the most recently published survey was too small to generalize the results.

VBCMh returned to implementing the survey ourselves in spring of 2018 and collected 149 surveys. This sample size was more than 3 times that collected by SWMBH and is large enough to have confidence that the survey results represent the total population of families served.

**Regional comparisons**

The YSS survey administered through SWMBH included four additional domains but omits the scores for the Functioning domain. Due to the low sample size for VBCMh, there are no significant differences between VBCMh scores and SWMBH scores on any domain (including Outcomes where VBCMh scored 14 points higher.)

	Access	Participation in to treatment	Cultural Sensitivity	Appropriateness of treatment	Outcomes	Social Connectedness
VBCMh	95	88	100	86	81	93
SWMBH	95	91	95	84	67	93

SWMBH’s scores are reported as simple percentages of those who agree or strongly agree and SWMBH only provides the data set to VBCMh for VBCMh so additional analyses can not be performed. Given these inadequacies for the data for the region and more inadequacies for data reported for the state of Michigan, we again found that the state of Oregon offered the most complete data collected on a population similar to that served by VBCMh (outpatient mental health services for children with serious emotional disturbance and including children with developmental disabilities.) Oregon’s published reports provide enough detail to insure that data analysis is completed in the same manner.

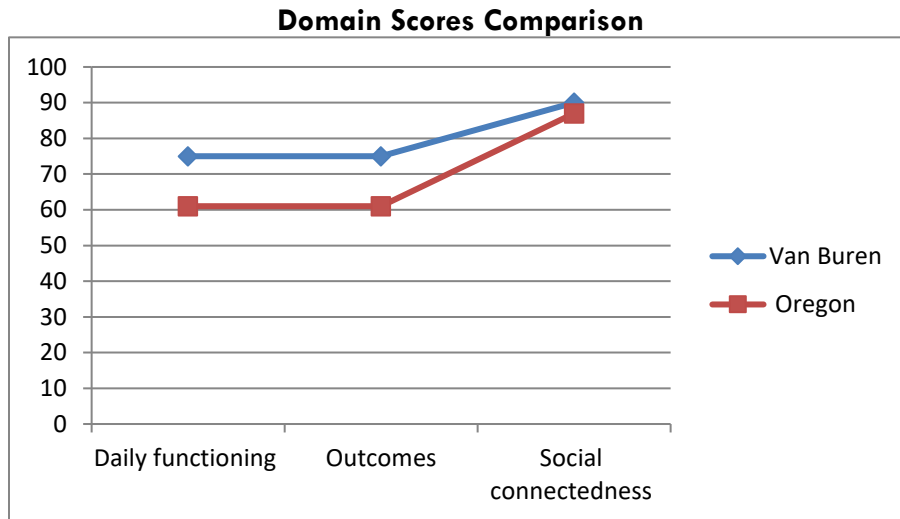
**Comparisons with Oregon**

VBCMh survey results were compared to Oregon as the benchmark. In order to compare scores with the State of Oregon, computation of the section scores, called domain scores, were calculated following the same methodology as in Oregon. A domain score that averaged 3.5 or greater was considered positive, and only those scores for persons answering two-thirds of the questions in a section were counted. Domain scores require a consistently positive response to individual items within a section in order to characterize a responder as having positive perceptions of that area. Domain scores are a more robust comparative indicator than the simple in agreement percentages used by SWMBH.

The **Outcomes of Treatment** domain looks for improvement in the quality of life in such areas as handling daily life, satisfaction with family and doing better in school. The **Daily Functioning** domain shares several items with the Outcomes domain but also looks at coping skills and the child being able to do things he or she wants to do. The **Social Connectedness and Family Life** domain looks for the availability of social support for the family and use of community resources outside of mental health services. Some studies indicate that strong Social Connectedness scores are a good predictor of longer term positive outcomes.

VBCMh scores computed with this methodology were significantly higher in all three of the domains when compared to the scores for Oregon.

	Van Buren	Oregon
<b>Daily functioning</b>	75	61
<b>Outcomes</b>	75	61
<b>Social connectedness</b>	90	87



**Review of YSS results and End’s interpretation:**

**Improved functioning** means that families of children served will indicate the child has improved functioning and outcomes as indicated by a validated instrument that includes handling of daily life, doing better in school, improved coping skills and being able participate in activities the child wishes to. The interpretive statement on Improved functioning lines up with two of the YSS domains (Daily Functioning and Outcomes of Treatment), and as shown above, the scores in those two domains are significantly higher than the national baseline data.

**Improved school performance** means that families of children served will indicate improved school performance.

One item on the YSS inquires about the family’s perception that the child is doing better in school. A majority of families served by VBCMh and in the national baseline data agreed or strongly agreed that school performance was improved. VBCMh scores were significantly higher than the national baseline data (72% vs. 64 %.) (See item scores reported on next page.)

**Improved participation in their community** means that families and children served will indicate higher levels of social connection in their community.

Families served by VBCMh and in Oregon scored high in the social connectedness domain. Families served by VBCMh were significantly higher in this domain (90% vs 87 %.) VBCMh families had especially high scores on the items indicating that they “know people who will listen when need to talk,” “have people comfortable talking with about private things,” “have more than one friend,” “and are satisfied with friendships child has.”

**Improved overall family functioning** means that families served will indicate satisfaction with family life and having social and family supports.

The average scores for the items asking about “satisfaction with family life” (74% vs. 65 %) and on “gets along better with family” (76% vs. 68 %) are significantly higher for VBCMh. As indicated in previous paragraph, VBCMh families indicate a significantly higher level of agreement with items indicating social and emotional support or social connectedness.

#### **Individual item comparisons**

The percentage of parents served who scored a question as a 4 (agreed) or 5 (strongly agreed)

<b>Summary of item</b>	<b>VBCMh</b>	<b>Oregon</b>
Better at handling daily life	73	69
Gets along better w/family	73	68
Gets along better w/friends	76	69
Doing better in school	72	64
Better able to cope when things go wrong	62	59
Better able to do the things wants to do	73	66
Satisfied with family life	74	65
Know people who will listen when need to talk	91	86
Have people comfortable talking with about private things	90	85
Have people w/whom can do enjoyable things	88	85
In a crisis, have support needed	85	85
Have more than one friend	92	86
Are with friendships child has	92	87

#### **Comparison with previous years’ data**

Comparing scores over the past ten years shows the scores for VBCMh as consistently higher than national baseline.

The remaining outcome data for children will be reported in April 2019 and a Board motion will be asked for at that time.