

**Van Buren
Community Mental Health Authority**

Ends Monitoring Report

June 2024

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 or a substance use disorder.

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 fourteenth year of monitoring reports on the Children's End cited above and the interpretation of the end cited below. This is the second part of a two-part monitoring report on this End.

The current report provides data collected using the Youth Services Survey for Families (YSS). (In February 2023, results from other outcome data collected for youth served was reported and is summarized in the included table.) The current report provides evidence of meeting the portions of the statements highlighted in yellow.

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 for Families (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. Each question is answered on a 5-point scale including the choices of 5 = strongly agree with the statement, agree, neutral or not sure, disagree and 1 = strongly disagree with the statement. All statements are worded as positive statements. VBCMh

administered the survey to families served annually from 2009-2014. From 2015-2021, SWMBH utilized the YSS and completed it with customers for all CMHs in the region. SWMBH’s administration included the full instrument with more domains such as the satisfaction with services domain. In 2022, due to feedback the instrument was too long, SWMBH dropped questions from the domains relevant to this report. VBCMh implemented the survey utilizing the relevant portions of the YSS with families on paper, turned in anonymously or if preferred through an anonymous electronic link. A total of 91 surveys completed by families were returned during a three-week period in April and May 2024.

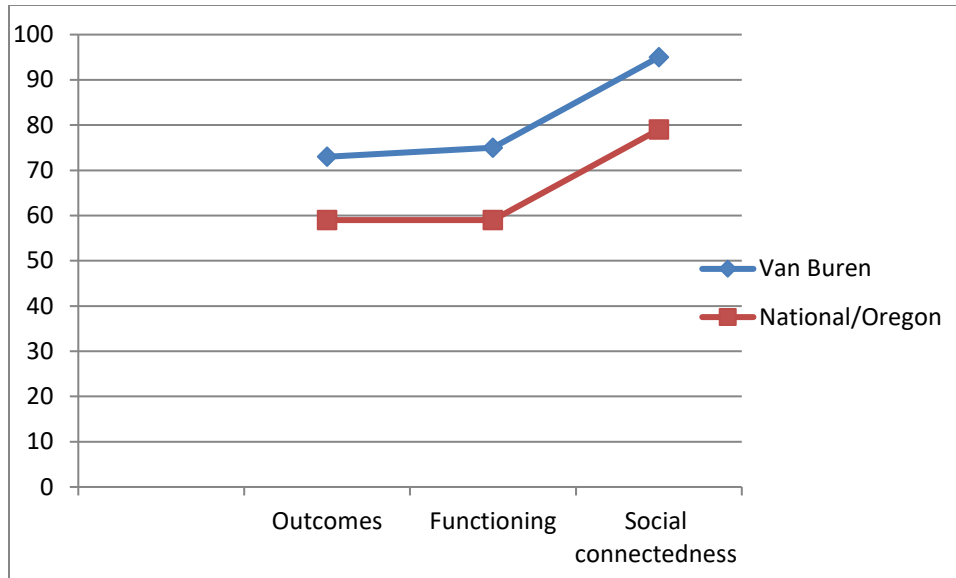
Comparisons with Oregon

VBCMh survey results were compared to Oregon as the benchmark, as in previous years. 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 simple “in agreement” percentages.

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 overlaps 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.

Domain scores for VBCMh served families were significantly higher than Oregon on all three of the sections looking at improvements in the quality of life. This overall result is consistent with most years of our comparisons.

	Van Buren	National/Oregon
Outcomes	73	59
Daily functioning	75	59
Social connectedness	95	79



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 to participate in activities the child wishes.

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. Over the years of using this instrument, a majority of families served by VBCMh and in the national baseline data agreed or strongly agreed that school performance was improved since they started treatment. This year, 72% of VBCMh served families agreed with this statement while 58% of families in the national sample agreed. The score was improved for both groups over last year.

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

The Social connectedness domain lines up with this outcome. Families served by VBCMh and in Oregon scored high in the social connectedness domain, with the score for VBCMh served families returning to scores seen prior to the pandemic. Families served by VBCMh were significantly higher in this domain than the national sample. VBCMh families had especially high scores on the items indicating that “in a crisis, I would have support needed from family and friends,” and “are satisfied with friendships child has,” and “have people with whom I can do enjoyable things.”

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”(72% vs. 62 %,) and on “gets along better with family” (77% vs. 62 %) 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.

Comparison with previous years’ data

Comparing scores over the past fifteen years shows the scores for VBCMh as consistently higher than nationally reported data except in the pandemic when the social connectedness scale was lower for VBCMh.

All of the monitoring data for the Children’s End is summarized in the attached table.

BOARD PROMPTS

1. Is the interpretation by the CEO reasonable?
2. Is the evidence relevant and compelling?
3. Does this information lead the Board to believe they need to refine their Ends?