



Douglas County Youth Initiative Report



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Youth Initiative Programs

- WrapAround
- Truancy Project
- La Liga
- Youth Awards
- Youth Congress
- Connections: Mental health action - DC Forums
- DC Youth Commission



DCYI has two main programming areas: Youth Leadership/Youth Development *and* helping at-risk families via our WrapAround program

WrapAround: Saving Families, Saving Costs

- Free
- Voluntary
- Work with families with youth ages 5-21
- Work in the home for 12-24 months
- Working to keep kids, safe, healthy, and remain in the home
- Get to know the whole family PLUS their neighbors, friends, relatives, teachers, doctors, etc.
- Bring a TEAM together to assist families working through problems keeping them stuck, or if they are involved with an outside agency, such as courts, law enforcement, suspension, expulsion, etc.
- Clients: Self-referral or from an agency; mostly DCSD schools and Human Services/Child Welfare
- Review each family on a scale of 10 life domains to understand their needs and foster success
- Alternative to other systems
- Trained Facilitators work with families for 1-2 years, in their homes, to offer support, and to also model effective behavior techniques.
- When WRAP begins working, families present with a 60-70% involvement with significant stressors. On average, WRAP can reduce that to 25%.



WrapAround Family

The family was referred to WrapAround Services due to ongoing school attendance concerns for Sue, compounded by the death of her mother. Sue currently has a truancy rate of approximately **30%**, though some improvement has been noted since WRAP has become involved. Her father, who is retired, has struggled with ensuring Sue attends school on time each day. WrapAround staff have reiterated the importance of daily, on-time attendance with Dad on multiple occasions.

Services and Interventions Provided

WrapAround meets with the family **biweekly** and provides **daily morning text check-ins** with Dad to confirm Sue's school attendance.

Parenting Support:

Dad has expressed difficulty with parenting and managing expectations following the loss of his wife. WrapAround has provided guidance, encouragement, and education to help him better support Sue.

Counseling and Grief Support:

Counseling was identified as a critical need due to the death of Sue's mother. Sue is currently engaged in therapy. WrapAround strongly believes **in-home grief therapy** for both Dad and Sue would be beneficial to help them process their shared loss in a supportive environment, and is working on arranging this.

CASA Coordination:

Given the long-standing truancy concerns, WrapAround assisted in coordinating a **CASA mentor** for Sue. Initially, the family did not respond to outreach calls, as they were unfamiliar with the caller. WrapAround facilitated direct introductions and attended meetings to ensure engagement. Sue is now actively participating and enjoying her relationship with her CASA mentor, which is expected to support her confidence and emotional well-being.

School Advocacy:

WrapAround staff have visited Sue's school multiple times to facilitate meetings, clarify next steps, and ensure Dad understands how best to support Sue academically and emotionally.

Benefits and Systems Navigation:

WrapAround assisted Dad in completing **Medicaid paperwork** and helped the family establish **Social Security benefits** following the death of Sue's mother.

Additional Referrals:

WrapAround completed the **intake paperwork for Aspen Effect** to further support Sue's emotional and behavioral health needs.

Current Status

While attendance challenges persist, **improvement has been observed**. Sue remains in therapy and is engaged with her CASA mentor. Continued support, particularly grief-focused services for both Dad and Sue, is recommended to further stabilize the family and support Sue's long-term success.



DCYI Programs

Truancy: DCYI utilizes WrapAround principals and methodology for youth in court for truancy. To note, DCYI WRAP has been doing this for the past 10 years and has recently hired a WRAP Facilitator to work with families in court. WRAP is successful and has helped numerous youth attend Job Corps, gain their GED, or return to school.

La Liga: Senior and Junior programs, provides soccer for Spanish speaking youth, providing free uniforms, equipment, connection, and comradery.



DCYI Programs

Outstanding Youth Awards: Spring

DCYI Advisory Board selects 10 outstanding youth who have overcome personal adversity and created positive change in their lives. Provides business, community and civic leaders an opportunity to honor youth that might not otherwise be recognized.

Youth Congress: Fall

Students work with community and elected officials to share their ideas and give feedback on issues pertaining to them. Held each year, high school students hear from subject matter experts on a variety of issues and then tackle these complicated problems. From unifying the teen curfew to growing opportunities to champion youth voice, students learn how challenging it is to problem solve and the difference they can make by working together.



DCYI Programs

Educational Series

DCYI hosts Lunch-n-Learns on a variety of topics. DCYI uses youth and community input to identify current issues and invite speakers. Topics: Autism, Mitigating Negative Behaviors, Prevention of Teen Suicide, and Drugs in our Community.



DC Youth Forums

Advisory Board Elected and Appointed leaders have prioritized speaking to youth. One of the best ways to do this, to hear the pros and cons, the gaps, and the needs, is to speak with youth directly, via “A Forum for Youth.” And where best to do this? In the schools where kids are! In 2022-23, Advisory Board members visited five schools to have casual and informative conversations with youth!