

In September 2009, the Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board was awarded a six year Cooperative Agreement from the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to enhance Clermont County's System of Care, named FAST TRAC. Part of our mission is to support and empower caregivers of youth with emotional/behavioral challenges through our Peer Support Partner program. Peer Support Partners (PSP) are individuals who support families involved in the FAST TRAC Wraparound program. Every caregiver who has a youth enrolled in the Wraparound program is partnered with a PSP to help guide them through the process of learning new terminology, answer questions, provide support during team meetings, offer training on various subjects, and visit with families individually. Data for the current evaluation brief were collected December 2010 through December 2014.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIMARY CAREGIVERS (n=199)*	
Male 9%	Female 91%
AGE	
Less than 40 years	54%
40-49 years	23%
50 years and above	23%
ETHNICITY	
White	92%
EDUCATION	
Below High School	17%
High School Diploma or GED	27%
Associate Degree/Some College	44%
College Degree	12%

A STORY OF SUCCESS

*"Caring for someone who has a challenging mental illness can be hard and very difficult. Our son struggled with his mental health and was making poor decisions. My family was left in a dark hole with **no one to turn to until getting involved** with Wraparound and Families Connected.*

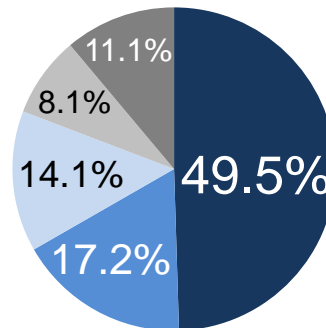
*Our PSP introduced us to so many resources and support, giving us hope! Just having the knowledge and **learning to advocate for our family, we now can use resources that we never knew about before. We have gained so much** as a family."*

-Clermont County Caregiver

CAREGIVERS' EMPLOYMENT STATUS

IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS


Of the 198 caregivers surveyed, 50% were employed. The 99 who had not worked in the past 6 months reported the following reasons for not doing so:





- Own health problems or disability
- Child's behavioral or emotional problems
- Other family responsibilities and/or transportation issues
- Childcare problems
- Other

LEVEL OF POVERTY FOR CAREGIVERS

(n=197)*

 **32%** Above Poverty

 **14%** At/Near Poverty

 **54%** Below Poverty

In 2015, the **poverty threshold** for a family of four residing in the lower 48 states is **\$24,250**.

(Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2015)



WITH PSP SUPPORTS, FAMILIES ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH ADVOCATING FOR RESOURCES

Challenges in and outside the home may contribute to caregivers' ability to effectively utilize the community resources available to them and their children.

PSPs support caregivers, educate and empower them, and help them learn how to advocate for community resources.

* n=Number of Participants

The PSP program’s goal is to keep the focus on family-driven services and to support caregivers in developing self-advocacy skills they can use to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Beginning in January of 2014, a PSP Outcomes Survey was implemented to reflect 4 specific program goals: (1) Assist families to identify their natural supports; (2) Enhance families’ sense of empowerment to navigate the system of services available to children; (3) Provide emotional, social, and practical support to families; and (4) Prepare families to be efficient service users. Data from this survey and additional outcomes for the Peer Support Partner program are presented below.

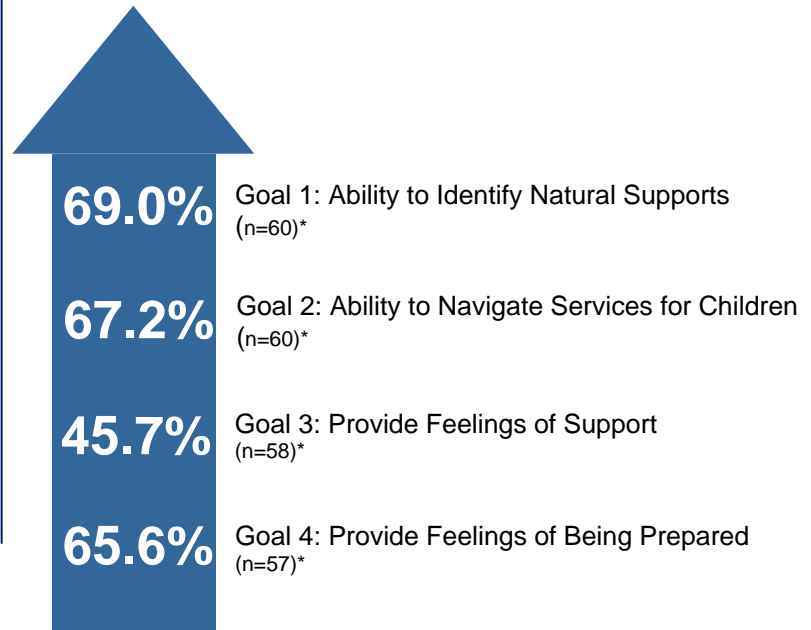
CAREGIVERS ARE FINDING MEANINGFUL SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE PSP PROGRAM

CAREGIVER STRENGTHS
PERCENTAGE OF IDENTIFIED STRENGTHS THAT INCREASED FROM INTAKE TO 12 MONTHS IN PROGRAM
(n=39)*



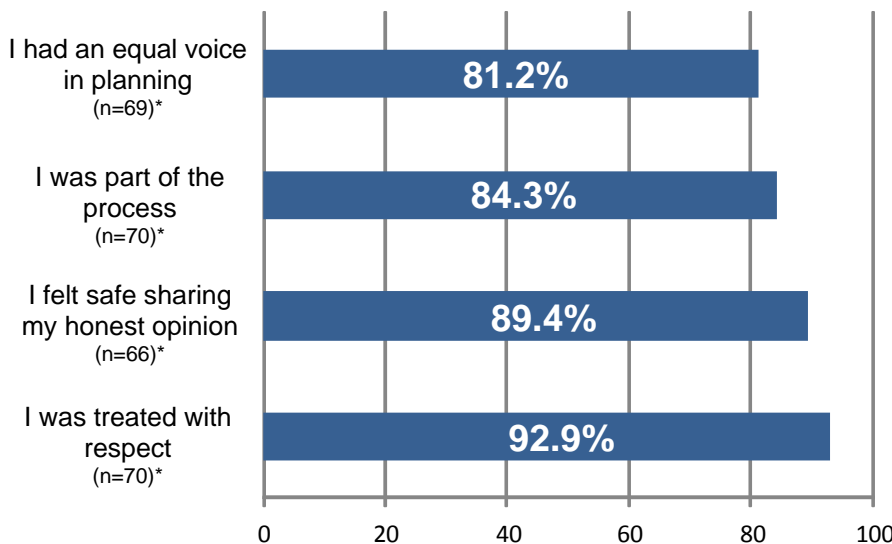
Knowledge: caregiver’s ability to be knowledgeable/aware of the child’s strengths and needs.
Organization: caregiver’s ability to be organized and efficient in order to follow through on meeting the child’s needs.
Social resources: caregiver’s family, friend and social networks that provide help with raising the child.
Supervision: caregiver’s ability to monitor and discipline the child in the home.

IMPROVEMENT BY GOAL BEFORE RECEIVING PSP SUPPORTS TO PRESENT WITH PSP



CAREGIVERS ARE SATISFIED AND ENGAGED WITH PSP SUPPORTS

PSP PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS
PERCENT OF CAREGIVERS WHO RESPONDED “OFTEN” OR “ALWAYS”



CAREGIVERS FIND VALUE IN THE SUPPORT OF PSPs

“The team listens and is able to brainstorm solutions without judging. They treat my family with respect.”

“It was helpful having someone to talk with about what was happening.”

* n=Number of Participants