

LOUISIANA METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME
STATISTICAL REPORT OF SERVICES FOR 1997

INTRODUCTION

1997 was the second full year the Methodist Children's Home has operated with the level of care system which was designed and implemented to more responsibly use our available bed spaces while more appropriately addressing the specific treatment needs of our residents. Our level of care system allows treatment staff to configure the most ideal treatment environment possible as a child's needs change during the therapeutic process.

First implemented in late 1995, the level of care system enabled the Methodist Children's Home to increase the utilization of available bed space from 76% of available capacity in 1995 to 93% in 1996. By further refining the admissions process during 1997 we boosted utilization of resources so that we used 96% of available bed space. (As an aside, if the percentage of capacity is adjusted to account for the beds unavailable for use as we transitioned out of the Arcadia program, we operated at 98% of our physical capacity.)

REFERRAL STATISTICS

During 1997, the Methodist Children's Home received a total of 897 referrals for placement in our residential programs. Of these children referred for placement, 320 were referred by the Division of Youth Services, 276 were referred by the Office of Community Services and 255 were referred privately. 46 youth were referred by police or sheriff's offices.

During 1997, the Methodist Children's Home served a total of 220 individual youth in our residential programs.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

In 1996, the agency's focus on providing evaluation services in all levels of care began to impact the number of youth who were placed in Evaluation Services as a distinct level of care. The transition to providing evaluative services across the spectrum of care was completed during 1997. No youth were placed in Evaluation Services as a distinct level of care during 1997. This effectively reduced the number of levels of care from 8 to 7. These currently include Alternate care, Emergency Shelter Care, Changing Aggressive Behavior Program, Structured, Intermediate, Residential and Group Care. The days of care provided by custody for the individual levels of care are provided in the chart below.

Level of Care	Custody				Total Days by Level of Care
	AC	DOC	OCS	Private	
Alternate Care	185	0	0	0	185
Emergency Shelter Care	0	1096	1046	1176	3318
Changing Aggressive Behaviors	0	0	2184	0	2184
Intermediate Residential Care	0	7816	6191	3746	17753
Structured Residential Care	0	824	1261	524	2609
Group Residential care	0	2403	2298	2533	7234
Arcadia Group Home	0	445	0	0	445
Total by Custody	185	12584	12980	7979	33728

The statistics related to the race and gender of our residents is provided below:

ADMISSION BY RACE, GENDER AND CUSTODY

Custody	Black			White			Other			TOTAL		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
AC	17	10	7	14	5	9	1	1	0	32	16	16
DOC	28	13	15	36	16	20	2	0	2	66	29	37
OCS	40	17	23	32	16	16	2	2	0	74	35	39
PRI	3	2	1	44	15	29	1	0	1	48	17	31
TOTALS	88	42	46	126	52	74	6	3	3	220	97	123

ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND LENGTH OF STAY STATISTICS

Statistics related to the admission and discharge of youth from the different levels of care are presented in the chart below. For purposes of utilization review, these statistics also provide information regarding length of stay.

Level of Care	Custody	Continued From Last Year	New	Continued To Next Year	Total Participants	Average LOS (days)
CAB	OCS	6	2	6	8	273
AC	AC	0	32	0	32	5.78
ESC	DOC	3	34	1	37	29.62
	OCS	3	39	1	42	24.9
	PRI	4	34	0	38	30.95
EVAL	DOC	0	0	0	0	0
	OCS	0	0	0	0	0
	PRI	0	0	0	0	0
INTM	DOC	25	35	19	60	130.27
	OCS	17	41	18	58	106.74
	PRI	10	27	12	37	101.24
STRC	DOC	2	26	0	28	29.43
	OCS	3	36	3	39	32.33
	PRI	2	19	2	21	24.95
RGC	DOC	0	0	0	0	0
	OCS	0	0	0	0	0
	PRI	0	0	0	0	0
GRP	DOC	7	14	8	21	114.43
	OCS	9	11	7	20	114.9
	PRI	4	6	2	11	230.27

INDEPENDENT LIVING

During 1997, 258 structure classes and seminars were presented to 16-21 year olds. This is an increase of 40% from the 184 classes and seminars taught in 1996. A total of 205 individual youth received services from the Independent Living Program. Children in the care of our agency, other child care agencies and in foster care have attended classes in subjects such as apartment hunting, check writing, banking, nutrition

and many other subjects related to living independently. Our staff provide services to a catchment area which covers all of northeast Louisiana, from Lincoln Parish to the Mississippi River.

Each participant in the Independent Living Program receives a pre-test and post-test for independent living skills assessment. During 1997 the average score on pre-tests was 59% with the average on post-tests being 69% for a pre-test/post-test average improvement of 10%.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

During 1997, a total of 1,010 individuals were served through the Family Development Center. This is an increase of 27% over the previous year's total of 793. There were 76 out-patient clients yielding a total of 203 individual family members seen in family therapy. There were 156 residential clients yielding a total of 364 individual family members seen in therapy. The Family Development Center taught 32 individuals the course *Helping Children Cope with Divorce* and 227 children participated in the psycho-educational component of the Violence Prevention Grant taught in Lincoln Parish schools. 29 families involving 184 individuals participated in court-ordered family evaluation services. Family Development Center staff presented at state and national-level professional conferences during 1997 and Dr. David Wheeler met all the requirements to be licensed as a Psychologist in Louisiana. Dr. Wheeler is our first Staff Psychologist.

HOWARD SCHOOL

During 1997, the Howard Educational Center provided educational services to a total of 225 different youth. 220 of these youth were residents of the Methodist Children's Home. Howard Educational Center served 165 different youth in regular Residential classes, an increase of 26% over the previous year. 66 youth moved through the regular classroom and on to either public school or Voc-Tech. 60 youth participated in short-term educational services.