

Project Abstract/ Summary

Grantee Name: Meta House

Grantee City and State: Milwaukee, WI

Grant Project Title: *Offering Families Safety, Permanency, and Recovery Gains (OFFSPRG)*

Summary of Grant Project

Meta House, Inc., a trauma-informed, gender-appropriate, family-centered residential substance abuse treatment program for women and children, and its collaborative partners will integrate a new program called Offering Families Safety, Permanency, and Recovery Gains (OFFSPRG), thereby expanding and bringing to scale its existing (RFT) program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The collaborative partners are: Meta House, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW), Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (CSSW), Integrated Family Services (IFS), and the Behavioral Health Division of Milwaukee County (BHD). The target population is families referred from BMCW, primarily focused on mothers and their substance exposed infants and women who are pregnant and using substances. Also targeted are other families currently in the child welfare system and families who have the potential to enter the child welfare system (including those with older children). The program will serve mothers and children in the RFT and also include fathers/father figures/partners and other family members. The mothers to be served will typically have compromised physical and mental health, histories of trauma, live in poverty, and have unstable housing and few social supports. The children are likely to have cognitive, behavioral/emotional, physical and developmental challenges and/or challenges with social functioning.

Understanding that the welfare of children and substance abuse recovery for mothers are intimately related, the goal of OFFSPRG is to implement a collaborative process for the provision of services that will strengthen and build family protective factors to stabilize, strengthen, preserve and reunite families by increasing the well-being of children and families, enhancing the safety of children and supporting child permanency. The partnership includes collaborative initial assessments of families as well as on-going assessments and services and single coordinated care plans. Services will be provided to mothers to address parenting, trauma, health, substance abuse and mental health, life skills, employment, childcare, transportation and other wraparound services. The children will receive screenings and assessments, medical care, therapeutic interventions and educational and recreation services. Fathers and other family members will be involved through education, parenting programs, the Celebrating Families! program, and other wraparound and support services.

Several evidence-based practices will be used including Family Team Meetings, Motivational Interviewing, Case Management for Coordination of Systems and Services, Art Therapy, EMDR, Infant Mental Health diagnosis and treatment, Filial Therapy, prenatal care concurrent with substance abuse treatment, Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery, Seeking Safety Therapy for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Abuse, and Celebrating Families!

The process evaluation will document the implementation of the project, the development of the cross-systems collaboration, and program costs. The outcome evaluation will measure changes in and status of mother's recovery and mental health, the family's stability and ability to function, and children's well-being and social-emotional behavior.

For more information, contact:

Name, Title (on project): Christine Ullstrup, Project Director

Phone number: (414) 962-1200

E-mail address: cullstrup@metahouse.org

Website: In development.