

Outcome Evaluation Process

Upon a child's admission to any Youth Villages Program, an Admissions Packet is completed, which includes basic demographic information about the child and family, as well as the following clinical assessment tools: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), Adult and Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI), Parental Acceptance and Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ). Parents and foster parents complete the SDQ and AAPI. (Please note – only those foster parents who have known the child over two months complete these tools.) Children who are over 11 years of age complete the SDQ and PARQ. The SDQ is administered again at six months post-admission if the child is still in treatment, and again at discharge from Youth Villages. Children younger than 11 do not complete any of the assessment tools.

Scores from each of the assessment tools are entered into the child's electronic medical record. Additional assessment information is gathered by clinical staff during psychosocial, educational, legal, and medical assessments. In addition, data concerning funding, custody, and program participation are collected; other information available on youth in selected programs includes prior location, IQ, diagnoses, and permanency goal. If the child is in the foster care program, information on their placement home is gathered. The electronic medical records system is also the repository of all clinical documentation including therapy/counseling notes, collateral contacts with community resources and others involved with a youth, critical events, treatment and discharge plans, and discharge summaries. Clinical documentation contains a mix of qualitative and quantitative information; aggregate analysis of the data supports ongoing outcome evaluation and performance improvement efforts.

Each time a child is transferred to another Youth Villages program, data concerning the new placement are entered into the medical record. Current information on funding is also maintained in the record.

When a youth is discharged from Youth Villages, data entered includes date of discharge, type of discharge, discharge location, and discharge summary. At this time, the case is assigned to an Outcome Evaluation Specialist for a Discharge Satisfaction Survey. This survey is completed within two weeks of receiving the discharge information, which may be up to two weeks following the child's discharge.

Follow-ups are conducted at 6, 12, and 24 months post-discharge. The information collected at those points includes Placement Information (current placement as well as all placements the child has had since previous follow-up) and a short questionnaire concerning the child's placement, school, employment, and legal status. The SDQ is administered via phone at the 12-month follow-up. Data are then entered into the medical record.

Data entered into the electronic medical record are maintained in secure computer files, and confidentiality of client information is strictly maintained. Outcome measures, including placement outside the home, contact with the juvenile justice system, school attendance and success, and family function are tracked on a regular basis. Aggregate reports of outcome measures are shared with each program and are utilized in improving service delivery.