



## Hamilton County MCSA

JFS + Juvenile Court + MHR SB + MRDD

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More than 400 Hamilton County at-risk youth per year will have access to unique, family empowering services that help them avoid institutional care now that Hamilton County Commissioners have approved a two-year, \$24 million contract between the Hamilton County Multi County System Agencies (MCSA) and Hamilton Choices, LLC.

The children, who have a wide variety of needs such as autism, mental health, or addiction, often compounded by a history of abuse and/or medical conditions such as juvenile diabetes or kidney disease, will be served using a wraparound model of care<sup>1</sup>.

Wraparound care uses frequent child and family team meetings to encourage families to actively participate in decision making about treatment. Non-traditional services such as behavior management training or art therapy are combined with more traditional treatments to provide tailored services for each child. Youth are often able to safely remain in their homes and schools instead of being cared for in expensive institutional settings, and when they do require residential treatment, the length of stay is minimized.

The MCSA is a unique partnership of child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, developmental disability, and addiction treatment systems and funding. Hamilton Choices youth are involved in at least two of these systems at the point of referral.

Hamilton Choices, LLC is a subsidiary of Choices, Inc. headquartered Indianapolis, Indiana. The first contract with Choices for wraparound service in Hamilton County began in November 2002. For additional information about Choices please visit [www.choicesteam.org](http://www.choicesteam.org) or contact Andrew Shapiro, (513) 765-5500.

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<sup>1</sup> Bruns, E.J., Walker, J.S., Adams, J., Miles, P., Osher, T.W., Rast, J., VanDenBerg, J.D. & National Wraparound Initiative Advisory Group (2004). Ten principles of the wraparound process. Portland, OR: National Wraparound Initiative, Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, Portland State University.