

Evaluation of the Early Years Program: Public Report

Jeffrey R. Carter, Ph.D., C.Psych.

**Mme Vanier Children's Services
London, ON**

Full Report: April 28, 2006

Public Report: June 16, 2006

Funded by:

*The Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO
Program Evaluation Grant # PEG 162606-043*

**© 2006, Jeff Carter and Mme Vanier Children's Services.
Do not copy without written consent.**

Evaluation of the Early Years Program: Public Report

Vanier has been identified as a regional centre for Early Years clients. The Early Years Team (EYT) serves clients age 0-6 years through a variety of programs, including outpatient counseling, in-home support, and day treatment. Vanier has conducted time-limited evaluations of this program in the past. The current initiative, however, develops infrastructure so that an ongoing evaluation can contribute to data-driven decisions.

Program Evaluation Activities

A new initiative for the current project was to develop infrastructure to provide outcome measurements of the Early Years Team. The Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale (PECFAS) is a downward extension of the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS). During the term of this grant, Vanier's Coordinator of Research and Evaluation and the Early Years Team Leader completed training in the PECFAS through the publisher, Functional Assessment Systems. As determined in consultation with Functional Assessment Systems, the Team Leader conducted training for Child and Family Therapists, Intensive Family Services workers, and Child and Youth Counselors on the Early Years Team. To facilitate data collection and management, an external Information Systems consultant was hired to create entries in the main Vanier client database for PECFAS data, and to develop reports summarizing data for individual clients and the entire team.

The current project also built on existing structures already in place at Vanier. First, the agency had recently developed a revised Client Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ). During the term of this grant, protocols for when the CSQ is completed and how it is processed were developed by the agency. Vanier now has a user-friendly program for entering CSQ data, and a computerized report for summarizing the data by team. Second, for a few years, Vanier has been administering the Day Treatment Rating Scales (Carter, 2002-2003) at regular intervals for children in day treatment programs. We now have a report to summarize this data by program and format the report so that typical progression through the program was evident.

REFERENCES

Carter, J.R. (2002-2003). *Day Treatment Rating Scales*. London, ON: Mme Vanier Children's Services.