
Assessing the Fidelity of Wraparound: The Wraparound Observation Form—Second Version

Whereas the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) uses interviews with multiple respondents to assess Wraparound implementation, another method for assessing the implementation of the Wraparound approach is to observe the planning of formal and informal services during youth and family team meetings. Youth and family team meetings are organized by a care coordinator trained in the Wraparound approach that engages families and their formal and informal supports to design, revise, and evaluate a plan of care for the family. The Wraparound Observation Form-Second Version (WOF-2) was developed to reflect the delivery of services based on the Wraparound approach to children and youth during team meetings in community-based systems of care.

The 48-item WOF-2 was developed in collaboration with a committee of family members, care coordinators, and administrators who identified essential components of Wraparound team meetings. The WOF-2 and its user's manual are based on a review of the literature on Wraparound (including the 10 essential elements), input from stakeholders, and a pilot study. The WOF-2 elicits information on the following characteristics of the Wraparound process as expressed in team meetings:

- Community-based resources (5 items)
- Individualized services for the family (9 items)
- Family-driven services (10 items)
- Interagency collaboration (7 items)
- Unconditional care (3 items)
- Measurable outcomes (3 items)
- Management of team meeting (5 items; e.g., plan of care is agreed on by all present at the meeting)
- Care coordinator (6 items; e.g., care coordinator makes the agenda of the meeting clear)

All 48 items are closed-ended and require the observer to select one of the following three responses: Yes, No, or Non-Applicable. Completing an observation using the WOF requires verbal and written parental consent. Once consent has been granted, the observer sits away from meeting participants in a location that does not distract from the meeting. During the meeting, the observer marks Yes, No, or NA (not applicable) to each of the 48 items and places a check by the domains discussed. At the conclusion of the meeting any questions that needed further explanation are asked of the family or care coordinator. The WOF-2 can be scored by totaling individual items or by adding the applicable response totals for the items under each of the eight key characteristics.

Previous research from 30 Wraparound team meetings has demonstrated good inter-rater reliability for the WOF, with average agreement ranging from 83% to 100% across items and average percent agreement of 97%. Based on these results, the WOF-2 appears to be a reliable instrument for assessing the implementation of Wraparound in team meetings.

To obtain WOF-2 materials, information on research cited in this article, and any additional information, please contact Philip D. Nordness, Ph.D., Western Illinois University, Horriban Hall 25, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390, PD-Nordness@wiu.edu.

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