



**4. Please describe why this project was initiated or what problem it addressed:**

The project was initiated due to concerns about service fragmentation, the number of Durham County children placed in residential facilities in other counties, and the rising cost of court-ordered treatment services for youth. Judges were routinely ordering the county to arrange and pay for treatment services that were needed but not provided due to the lack of available funding. The project was also initiated due to recognition that many families of children with significant health, mental health, and safety issues were served by multiple agencies. The project was also initiated because it is a “best practice” approach to working with children with serious emotional disturbance and their families.

**5. Please quantify the improvement’s results in terms of cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of services provided. (Please indicate what resources were used to achieve your results, and what was done with the time savings, if any accrued).**

Through the month of April in SFY 2004, our county expended \$7,125 in court-ordered treatment costs. This compares to an expenditure of \$762,302 in SFY 2000. Some of the resulting savings has been reinvested to provide additional infrastructure support for the *system of care*. The children receiving mental health services increased 45% between February 2003 and March 2004, from 600 children to 869 children. In the past year, there has been a 52% decrease in the number of Durham County youth placed in residential treatment centers. There has been a significant increase in the number of Durham County children and youth who receive mental health services in their own homes or in a therapeutic foster home setting.

**6. Please provide any other descriptive information you would like to be considered by the review committee.**

A key resource for us has been the collective commitment of public and private agencies and community partners to make the *system of care* work in Durham County. We practice partnership. We want to become known as a place where agencies really know how to work together and work with families. We still have much work to do, but we have some impressive outcomes and some even more impressive stories of individual family success.

County  
Manager:

Michael M. Ruffin

Supervisor's  
Name:

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Return by JUNE 1, 2004 via email Rebecca.Troutman@ncacc.org