This report represents CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER OF MID-FAIRFIELD COUNTY’s responses to Charting Impact, a joint project of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar USA Inc, and Independent Sector. Charting Impact uses five simple yet powerful questions to encourage strategic thinking and help organizations share concise information about their plans and progress toward impact.

MISSION:
OUR MISSION is to help all children with mental and behavioral health needs achieve emotional stability, academic success, and happy and productive lives. We are the largest provider of child mental health care in Mid-Fairfield County. Each year we help thousands of children and family members who live in Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Westport, Weston, and Wilton.
The content of this Charting Impact Report is the sole product and responsibility of CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER OF MID-FAIRFIELD COUNTY. This report does not in any way represent an endorsement from Independent Sector, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, or GuideStar, nor does it represent fulfillment of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. For more information on Charting Impact, visit www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact
1. What are we aiming to accomplish?

The Center's goals for all children and families we serve is for the children (to age 19) to be developmentally and behaviorally on track to achieve their highest potential at home, in school and in the community, to be happy, and to make positive life choices. At the Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County we help children and their families recover from their traumas that lead to mental health and behavioral challenges affecting their quality of life.

2. What are our strategies for making this happen?

The Center features an Outpatient Children’s Clinic as well as special clinical programs, and offers a full-range of prevention, evaluation, and treatment services to address virtually every facet of a child’s psychological, behavioral, and emotional health. The Center enjoys a stellar reputation among community organizations, funders, clients, and collaborative partners. Over the past several years, the Center’s consultation services to school systems and community agencies have been expanding significantly. The Center has deployed its executive staff to provide services at contracted facilities through purchase of service agreements with the respective institutions. Following are the major collaborations with community agencies:

• The Center is Clinical partner with Dept. of Children&Families in a DCF-funded Learning Collaborative on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Treatment; to enhance clinician’s skills & provide DCF skills to refer trauma affected children to Center.
• The Center is the lead agency for the Norwalk Child FIRST replication team (with Family & Children’s Agency, Norwalk Community health Center, Norwalk Early Childhood Council, and Norwalk Healthy Families).
• Department of Children and Families now reimburses ChildFIRST for home visits.
• Added Child FIRST services to Westport in collaboration with Westport Human Services and funded by UW Coastal Fairfield
• NEON Child Development Program and Headstart provision of supervision and training of 150 professional staff serving approximately 585 children in the toddler and pre-school programs year round.
• Psychiatric consultations to Norwalk Hospital Emergency Dept.
• Management of System of Care (SOC).
• Group Day Care Consultation to Norwalk and Westport licensed group Day Care providers.
• City of Norwalk-Latino Mental Health Program.
• The Center is a key participant in the statewide Child Guidance Division of CCPA, advocating for the mental health needs of children on state, regional and community levels.
• Numerous committee and advisory committee participation in Human Services Council.
• Choices for Success – Dept. of Education, After School Grant Program evaluator; Norwalk Health Department, AfterSchool Alliance, Carver Center, Norwalk Housing Authority, etc.
• Early Childhood Consultation Program Statewide collaboration managed by Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH) funded by the strategic Investment Fund – Provides consultation education training and evaluation to Stamford/Norwalk early childcare sites.
• Out of School Time Providers - Norwalk after school programs. Dedicated to quality programs for middle schoolers.
• Community Counseling/Support Team – coordinated by Westport’s Department of Human Services for guidance and support to residents in times of crisis; collaboration with Westport/Weston human services providers & Westport/Weston United Way.
• Wilton High School teachers & administrators – & our Medical Director, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist

3. What are our organization's capabilities for doing this?

The Center enjoys a committed and dedicated staff that believes in providing accessibility to evidence-based and up to date mental and behavioral health assessment, treatment and prevention to public sector families and children who often do not have this access or the ability to pay for it in the private sector. Our multi-disciplinary team consists of child psychiatrists, child psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). At present, the staff consists of 30 full-time and 23 part-time employees. Executive and Medical Directors manage the Center, together with a volunteer Board of Trustees that provides direction and oversight and assists in financial development efforts.
4. How will we know if we're making progress?

The Center’s participation in the new Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Learning Collaborative with the Department of Children and Families, gives our clinicians additional trauma-focused information about our clients through questions asked at both intakes and the first face-to-face interview, and increased trauma-focused treatment skills to better help our clients. The enhanced knowledge about the trauma history of the children and adolescents we serve gives us an opportunity to provide enhanced evidence-based therapies to help the children and their families recover from the affects of trauma. Last year almost 80% of our children presented with behaviors and challenges resulting from trauma. The Center was chosen by community partners as the lead agency for the Norwalk Child FIRST Replication Team, formerly funded in part by the Ct. Health & Development Institute, the Graustein Memorial Trust Fund, Fairfield County Community Foundation, and other local funders and now funded by the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, The William C. Bullitt Foundation, and the Theodore Cross Family Charitable Foundation.

5. What have and haven't we accomplished so far?

In FY 2012-13, the Center provided much needed services to a total of 1,915 clients: • 535 (not including parents, siblings and extended family members) through our clinical programs (Outpatient Children’s Clinic (to age 19), Prospects – Extended Day Treatment (seriously emotionally challenged children 5 – 12), Child FIRST (pre-natal to 6th birthday and family in their home), and specialized services such as Latino services, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, System of Care, and Crisis intervention (available 24/7 for the Center’s clients). • 1,166 people received services through our Early Childhood Consultation program, where our two ECC clinicians train NEON Headstart teachers, and teachers, students & parents in early childcare facilities. • 134 students through our Before and After School programs (Choices for Success 46 students from 6th grade to High School graduation; and 88 students at Kendall After the Bell program for working parents at the elementary school with the highest number and percentage of free/reduced lunch children in Norwalk) • 80 parents and siblings of the Choices for Success students NOTE: gender and ethnic data is only for the 535 served through clinical and outpatient programs. GENDER: Female = 38%; Male = 62%; ETHNICITY: Caucasian – 33%; Hispanic – 39%; Black – 24%; and, Bi-Racial/Not Reported/Other – 4%. Fifty-three percent of the Center’s clients were eligible for Medicaid; 22% uninsured & 26%commercial or out-of-network insurance (often high co-pays and limited coverage for mental health programs). Note the increase in uninsured clients, and the corresponding reduction in commercial insurance coverage underscores the number of people who have lost their jobs, and/or their health insurance. Of all the children and families served through the Center’s clinical outpatient and prevention programs, 76% fall into the low-income category and 23.9% into the moderate category, with less than 0.1% families paying full fees. Four hundred and sixty five clients (87% of all 535 clinical clients) came from Norwalk, Stamford and Darien.