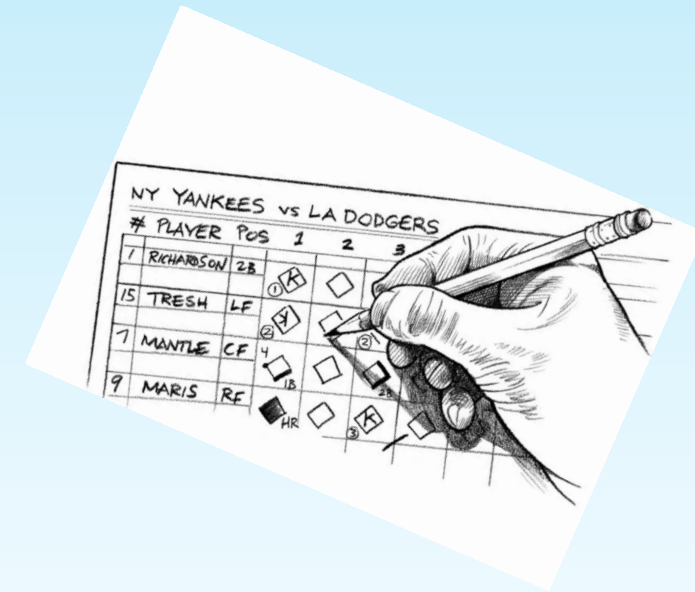


# ACORN Outcome System – A Different Kind of Nut! A Little Background

Scott Birdsong, LCSW-C, ACSW  
Strategic Partnerships  
& Grants Officer  
Family Services, Inc.

# “Ya can't tell the players without a scorecard!”







- Family Services, Inc. (FSI)
- Linkages to Learning (LTL)
- Maryland Public Mental Health System (PMHS) & Beacan Health Options





# FSI

[www.fs-inc.org](http://www.fs-inc.org)

- Legacy nonprofit social and behavioral health agency; 109 years in the DVM region; currently Montgomery & Prince George's County.
  - Prevention, early intervention, treatment, & community support resources; 35 programs, 20,000 served annually; integrated BH.
  - Staff over 400, representing 50 birth-origin countries, speaking 42 different languages.
  - Part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System.
  - School-based mental health services in Linkages to Learning for 21 years (annual census average 206 kids & 177 family members).
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# Montgomery County LTL








<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/community-engagement/linkages-to-learning/>

- Community-school partnership; integrated health, behavioral health, & social services focus – close to a quarter century!
  - Family case managers help link families to variety of community resources & services.
  - School-based health centers provide comprehensive range of medical, health and prevention services.
  - Child & family therapy and student support groups provided by licensed mental health clinicians. (Clinical services supported by DHHS contract & MD's PMHS – 30% of clinician wages must come from fee collections.)
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# Maryland's PMHS

<http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/>

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- MD PMHS operates under a Medicaid carve-out.
  - Somatic care is managed through 8 MCOs in the HealthChoice Program.
  - MD PMHS operates under/coordinated by Beacon Health Options, Maryland's Administrative Services Organization.
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# A Quest for Outcomes & Benefits of Our School-Based Services





- **Many years of therapist sensing and reporting impact; client and family self-reported improvements; teacher and school testimonials – but, scientific evidence was hard to come by.**
- **Fox, N., Leone, *et al.* (1999) Final Report on Linkages to Learning Program and Evaluation at Broad Acres Elementary School. College Park, Maryland: University of Maryland – 4 year longitudinal study, demonstrated less negative behaviors by LTL children compared to at-risk controls.**
- **Unpublished Analysis by Systems Evaluation Center, UMD and Family Services, Inc., 2013 - services delivered by FSI at the LTL sites it operated were very similar to those of the FSI outpatient mental health clinic, with both programs yielding some outcomes slightly above the state averages.**

Thank you!

.... and now for the folks who can  
really knock the ball out of the  
park....

