The Baker Foundation

The Trustee commented that what is most attractive from a funding perspective is broadening the impact on as many kids as possible by getting evidence-based treatments more widely disseminated, training clinicians and making evidence-based treatments available to many more clinics.

The first grant is to fund a unique expansion of Judge Baker’s Summer Treatment Program, a six week program for children with ADHD and other disruptive behaviors. Through the Baker grant, the Summer Treatment Program will expand to the school year offering parent consultation and monthly booster sessions. Dr. James Slavet, Director of the Summer Treatment Program, explains that this funding from Baker delivers a much needed reinforcement to the skills the children and parents learn during the summer session. “Parents jumped at the opportunity to have this expanded assistance and safety net after the program ends,” remarked Dr. Slavet.

Baker most recently funded two projects through Judge Baker’s Clinical Care Program, an outpatient clinical service providing mental health assessments and evidence-based treatments. One project, “Training Series for Community Clinicians” is focused on increasing the dissemination of evidence-based treatments by training New England area mental health providers. Through a series of training seminars, the Clinical Care team has been training community therapists on the use of evidence-based treatments for their treatment of children suffering with anxiety, depression, and disruptive behaviors.

To date almost 100 attendees have participated in the trainings and, as a result of these trainings, Clinical Care has been approached by three local clinics to repeat the training for the entire staff. Dr. Sue Woodward, Director of Clinical Care, observed that not only is the support from Baker helping to disseminate these proven treatments to be used by many more clinicians but the training series is also in direct alignment with Judge Baker’s new strategic direction.

The Baker Foundation is also supporting a project called, “Providing Critical Services for a Population in Need: Evidence-Based Treatments for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.” Eighty percent of children with ASD have anxiety or depression in addition to their social skills and other ASD-related challenges. Most families are already struggling to get these children to numerous other therapies. By adapting evidenced-based treatments, already known to be effective for children with anxiety and depression, for children with ASD provides these families with more effective and efficient treatment.

“The generosity of The Baker Foundation has given us a wonderful opportunity to make a big impact for children with ASD and their families,” said Dr. Woodward. “The Baker Foundation is indeed a very special friend of Judge Baker Children’s Center.”