My career with wraparound began on August 31, 1998. My first day of work was one of the most challenging days of my entire career because I didn’t know what to expect. I had no training in adolescent mental health except for one course in Life Span Psychology. Despite my lack of training in the field, I found my niche and fell in love. I fell in love with the process; I fell in love with the families; and I fell in love with social service as a profession. During my two-year tenure as a Care Coordinator, I learned so much about people and what’s needed to be successful. I also learned that every family involved in the system is just like mine. They are running the same race that my family has run over the years; running a race to make sure the next generation can succeed.

Fast forward two years to 2000, and I found myself at a crossroads. It was time for me to do something different but I still had passion for the work I did with wraparound. During this time period, Wraparound Milwaukee made changes to the contracts with the Care Coordination agencies, so that now there were opportunities for Care Coordinators to “grow” their careers. The Lead Care Coordinator position was just what I was looking for at the time. The Lead Care Coordinator position would provide me with leadership experience while at the same time allowing me to continue working with the children and families that had captured my heart. I held this position for just over a year and learned even more about the wraparound process. I also developed leadership skills that would give my career some direction. I decided during my time as a Lead Care Coordinator that I was ready to take my career to the next level and I needed...
Section 5: Supporting Wraparound Implementation

Kenyatta Matthews’ nine-year experience with Wraparound Milwaukee has been very educational. She has worked with wraparound in several different capacities, and this has provided her with the skills necessary to continue to effectively advocate for children and families.

**Author**