

PRINCIPLES FOR SYSTEM OF CARE DEVELOPMENT THAT UNDERPIN CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Adherence to System of Care Values and Principles

Stroul and Friedman articulated the values and principles for the system of care in [A System of Care for Children and Youth with Severe Emotional Disturbances](#) (1994). In providing technical assistance or consultation to any community desiring to develop a system of care, the first step is to identify that the community's values are congruent with system of care principles. (The following items speak to practice aspects of operationalizing these principles).

❖ Development of Family Partnerships

The cornerstone for a system of care is the relationship between families and child caring professionals. Specific skills are required in re-orienting relationships to share power, decision-making, and access to resources between families and professionals engaged around the strengths and needs of a child with serious emotional disturbance.

❖ Cultural Competency and Practices that are Culturally Sensitive

In a culturally competent system of care, agencies, programs, policies, and services are responsive to the cultural, racial, and ethnic differences of the population they serve. Non-traditional, culturally specific services should be included in the service array and used appropriately in Individual Service Plans.

❖ Building a System of Care Infrastructure

Developing a system of care requires infrastructure development at the practice, programmatic, administrative, community, and state levels. These levels are interdependent and individually and collectively share responsibility to communicate findings, issues, challenges and strategies to eliminate barriers to system resilience.

❖ Interagency Collaboration

Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Education, Substance Abuse, Early Intervention, Primary Health Care and all other child-serving systems should engage in systematic coordination of efforts and appropriate utilization of resources. Examples include blending of funds, unified care coordination, and integrated Management Information Systems.

❖ Promoting Access into the System of Care

A system of care is easily accessible to families in the community. The child's and family's strengths are assessed as well as their needs in the treatment planning process. Comprehensive care planning and coordination are available to families regardless of whether the system exists within a rural, urban, county, tribal, or territorial setting. The application process is clear and straightforward, with services provided in a timely manner.

❖ Individualized Care in the Least Restrictive Environment

The system of care philosophy holds central the idea that the child belongs in the home, is safe and supported in the school, and is involved in the community. Traditional and non-traditional service supports and resources are often needed to accomplish the goal of keeping the services community based and responsive to the child's unique strengths and needs.

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❖ **Securing Community Investment in the System of Care**

Establishing a system of care for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families enhances a community's sense of security, inclusiveness and productivity. Services are community-based with families and community leaders as full partners in the design, implementation, delivery, and evaluation aspects of care. The system of care model has application to other populations in the community.

❖ **Accountable**

The system of care needs to be accountable for positive outcomes for children and families – like cost, type, and delivery of services.

I have read the above statement on principles that underpin system of care development. I agree to provide grant communities support in achieving these objectives whenever I accept any payment from a grant community using resources from the Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health towards my consultation.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____