

Working in Rural and Frontier Communities

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A SYSTEM OF CARE
Definition of a System of Care

A system of care incorporates a broad array of services and supports that is organized into a coordinated network, integrates care planning and management across multiple levels, is culturally and linguistically competent, and builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth at service delivery, management, and policy levels.

Pires, S. (2002). *Building systems of care: A primer*. Washington, D.C.: Human Service Collaborative.



National System of Care Activity

- **CASSP** – systems of care for children with sed
- **RWJ MHSPY** – systems of care for children with sed
- **CASEY MHI** – systems of care for inner city children
- **CMHS GRANTS** – systems of care for children with serious emotional/behavioral disorders
- **CSAT GRANTS** – systems of care for adolescents with substance abuse problems
- **ACF GRANTS** – systems of care for children involved in the child welfare system
- **CMS GRANTS** – home and community based systems of care for youth in residential treatment
- **PRESIDENT’S NEW FREEDOM MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION** – home and community based systems of care

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Values and Principles for the System of Care

Core Values

1. **Child centered and family focused** – the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provided.
2. **Community based** – the locus of services as well as management and decision-making responsibility resting at the community level.
3. **Culturally competent** - agencies, programs, and services responsive to the cultural, racial, and ethnic differences of the populations they serve.

Stroul, B., & Friedman, R. (1986). *A system of care for children and youth with severe emotional disturbances* (Rev. ed.) Washington, DC: Georgetown University Child Development Center, National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health. Reprinted by permission.



Values and Principles for the System of Care

1. Children with emotional disturbances should have access to a **comprehensive array** of services that address their physical, emotional, social, and educational needs.
2. Children with emotional disturbances should receive **individualized** services in accordance with the unique needs and potentials of each child and guided by an individualized service plan.
3. Children with emotional disturbances should receive services within the **least restrictive**, most normative environment that is clinically appropriate.
4. The **families** and surrogate families of children with emotional disturbances should be full participants in all aspects of the planning and delivery of services.

Continued ...

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Values and Principles for the System of Care

5. Children with emotional disturbances should receive services that are **integrated**, with linkages between child-serving agencies and programs and mechanisms for planning, developing, and coordinating services.
6. Children with emotional disturbances should be provided with **case management** or similar mechanisms to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that they can move through the system of services in accordance with their changing needs.
7. **Early identification** and intervention for children with emotional disturbances should be promoted by the system of care in order to enhance the likelihood of positive outcomes.

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Values and Principles for the System of Care

8. Children with emotional disturbances should be ensured **smooth transitions** to the adult services system as they reach maturity.
9. The **rights** of children with emotional disturbances should be protected, and effective advocacy efforts for children and adolescents with emotional disturbances should be promoted.
10. Children with emotional disturbances should receive services without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, physical disability, or other characteristics and services should be sensitive and **responsive to cultural differences** and special needs.

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System of Care Framework



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Characteristics of Systems of Care as Systems Reform Initiatives

<u>FROM</u>	⇔	<u>TO</u>
Fragmented service delivery	⇔	Coordinated service delivery
Categorical programs/funding	⇔	Blended resources
Limited services	⇔	Comprehensive service array
Reactive, crisis-oriented	⇔	Focus on prevention/early intervention
Focus on "deep end," restrictive	⇔	Least restrictive settings
Children out-of-home	⇔	Children within families
Centralized authority	⇔	Community-based ownership
Creation of "dependency"	⇔	Creation of "self-help"

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Systems Issues in Rural and Frontier Communities

- Values Implementation?
- Workforce Issues
- Collaboration

Alaska

- What are we doing with Alaska?
 - Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- State of Alaska Early Childhood Work

New Mexico

- Transformation Grant
- Barnstorming Tour

Missouri

- Marriage of Public Health, Mental Health and Education

State Infrastructure Grant Program

- Arizona
- Georgia
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- Puyallup Tribe
- South Carolina
- Utah
