

SYSTEM OF CARE INFORMATION SHEET

What is a System of Care?

A System of Care:

- Is a partnership of everyone who cares for a child or youth including families, teachers, service agencies, health providers, and more.
- Is designed to help children and adolescents with serious mental health challenges get the services and supports they need in their home and community.
- Promotes the meaningful involvement of families and youth, which ensures that a child and their family receive the services and supports they need to succeed.
- Includes families and a coordinated network of agencies and providers that make a full range of mental health and other necessary services available as needed to meet the needs of children and youth with mental health challenges.

What is the System of Care Conference About?

This year's System of Care Conference, *Partnership and Possibilities: Sustaining Collaboration in Challenging Times*, will highlight System of Care values and principles and will include workshops related to school, mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare, youth and family involvement, and youth and family leadership.

What are System of Care Values and Principles?

1. Family Driven- which means the families have the primary decision making role in the care of their own children and youth as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community.
2. Youth Guided- which means young people have the right to be empowered, educated, and given a decision making role in their care as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in their community.
3. Accessible and Effective Services- children and their families should have access to a wide variety of services that meet their child and family's needs.
4. Culturally and Linguistically Competent Services- a way of designing and delivering services in a way that incorporates the religious, regional, racial, ethnic, and lifestyle values and beliefs of each child, youth, and family.
5. Individualized Care- children, youth, and their families should receive individualized services in accordance with their unique strengths and needs.
6. Coordinated and Collaborative Care- meaning that families and child serving agencies (for example: mental health, juvenile justice, schools, child welfare, etc.) agree upon the plan of care that will meet the child's needs and work together as a team to ensure they get the support they need. Services are integrated and linked across agencies so children, youth, and families can easily access services and supports.