

# **System of Care**

A Vision for Better  
Services for Tennessee  
Children

## **What is a System of Care?**

A coordinated network that includes a full array of mental health and other services that meet the many needs of children with serious emotional disturbances (or other children who need services from multiple systems)

## SYSTEM OF CARE

### Values

Source: Stroul & Friedman



- Child-centered
- Family-driven
- Community-based
- Culturally competent

## SYSTEM OF CARE

### Principles

Source: Stroul & Friedman



- Comprehensive array of services
- Individualized services based on needs
- Least restrictive environment
- Families as full partners
- Integrated and coordinated services

## SYSTEM OF CARE

### Principles

Source: Stroul & Friedman



- Early identification and intervention
- Smooth transition to adult services
- Advocacy
- Culturally competent services
- Accountable

## Tennessee System of Care Goal

Children with multi-  
system needs will  
be cared for in their  
homes and  
communities

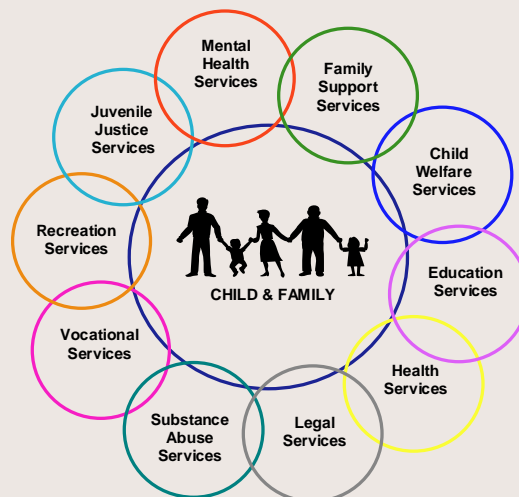


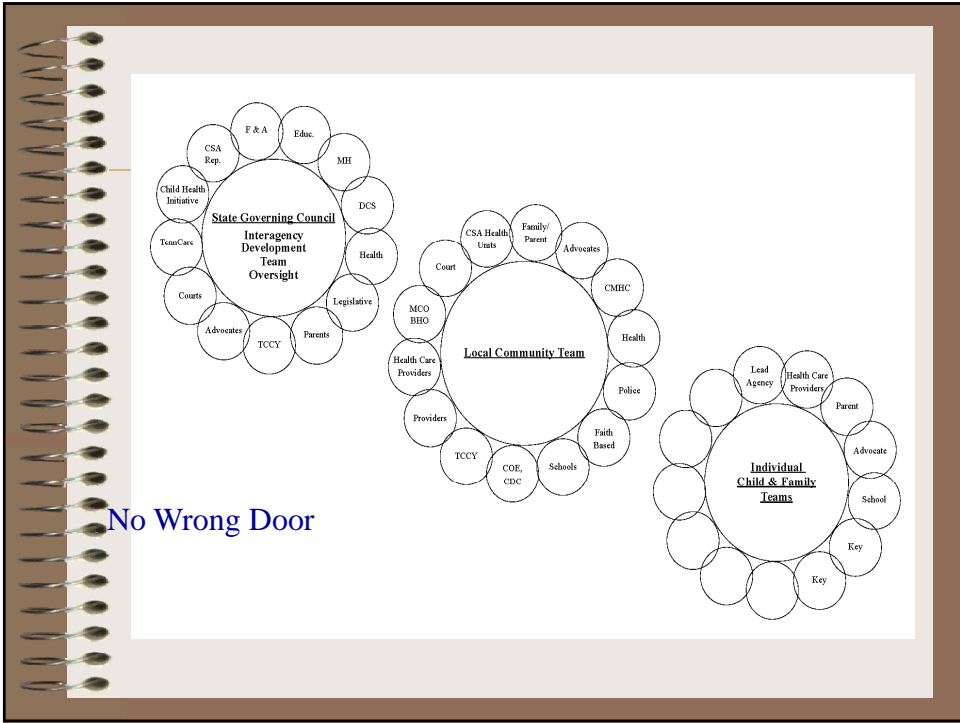


## Expected Outcomes

- ← Reduced juvenile court involvement and adjudications
- ← Reduced commitments to state custody
- ← Reduced utilization of hospital/residential placements
- ← Reduced school suspensions, expulsions, and dropout rates

## System of Care Framework





**State Governing Council-  
Cabinet-level council**

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**System of Care development and oversight**

**Set general guidelines for operation**

**Identify blended funding**

**Oversee needs assessment**

**Ensure cross-systems training**

**Review evaluation of system operation**

Local Community Team

**Local Community Team**

LAA = Staff Interagency Community Team  
 = responsibility for administration of funding  
 = set agenda's  
 = 1-800 info and referral line  
 = member of core team

**Regular meetings of core group**  
**"Doors" can bring family/child as referral to the Team**  
**Teams = determine if can be resolved quickly or if family is assigned to "lead agency" for individual care management.**  
**Management of pooled/braided funding**  
**Report to State Level Oversight Team**  
**Hold individual teams accountable**  
**1st level of appeal for individual CFT issues, grievances, etc.**  
*"Doors" could refer either to the Local Community Team or if a lead agency, go immediately into individual CFT level.*

Individual Teams

- report to Community Team, follow-up
- request more \$
- decision making
- service planning
- authorization of wrap funds
- authority for determining what services are provided

**Individual Child & Family Teams**

Key = key players involved in family

## Critical Issues for a System of Care

- There must be clear leadership and commitment from the top – and leadership and commitment at the community level.
- There must be adequate infrastructure.
- An adequate continuum of care and a sufficient array of services must exist.

## Critical Issues for a System of Care

- There must be adequate funding.
- Funding should be blended/  
pooled/braided to serve children  
who fall between the cracks.

## Critical Issues for a System of Care

- There must be adequate coordination of services.
- Incentives/statutory mandates may be required for consistent coordination.

## Critical Issues for a System of Care

- Evaluation processes must be put in place to monitor the system.
- Service testing/quality service reviews is the recommended methodology for evaluation.



## Why Families need a System of Care

- ✓ To access mental health services for their children and themselves.
- ✓ To access substance abuse services for their children and themselves.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for their children.
- ✓ To prevent children from entering state custody.
- ✓ To link with family advocates and supportive service providers.



## Why DMHDD Needs a System of Care

- ✓ To better coordinate mental health and substance abuse services for children and their parents.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for children and their parents.
- ✓ To link children/families with needed public assistance.
- ✓ To access needed health services.
- ✓ To prevent children from entering state custody to receive mental health or substance abuse services.



## Why DCS needs a System of Care

- ✓ To prevent children from entering state custody to access needed mental health or substance abuse services.
- ✓ To prevent children from entering state custody because of truancy or other school behavior problems.
- ✓ To successfully implement Child and Family Team meetings.
- ✓ To access services for children transitioning to adult service systems.



## Why DCS needs a System of Care

- ✓ To link children/families to needed public assistance.
- ✓ To access mental health services for children in custody and their families.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for children in custody and their families.
- ✓ To access health services for children in custody and their families.
- ✓ To access substance abuse services for children in custody and their families.



## Why DOE Needs a System of Care

- ✓ To facilitate “Child Find” to link young children to Part C early intervention services.
- ✓ To facilitate social and emotional development of children for compliance with IDEA.
- ✓ To improve opportunities for transitioning youth from ages 14 to 21 to adulthood or adult service systems for compliance with IDEA.



## Why DOE Needs a System of Care

- ✓ To access substance abuse services for children and their parents.
- ✓ To access mental health services for children and their parents.
- ✓ To link children/families with needed public assistance.
- ✓ To reduce truancy and dropout rates.
- ✓ To prevent children from entering state custody.



## Why DOH needs a System of Care

- ✓ To implement Early Childhood Comprehensive Services.
- ✓ To link clients with needed public assistance.
- ✓ To access mental health and substance abuse treatment services for clients and their children.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for children and their clients.
- ✓ To keep clients/children out of state custody.



## Why DHS needs a System of Care

- ✓ To access mental health and substance abuse services for clients and their children.
- ✓ To access health services for clients and their children.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for clients and their children.
- ✓ To better support relative caregivers.
- ✓ To prevent children of clients from entering state custody.



## Why Juvenile Courts need a System of Care

- ✓ So children receive mental health and substance abuse services without juvenile court involvement.
- ✓ To access mental health and substance abuse services for children before the courts.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for children before the courts.
- ✓ To access services to prevent children from entering state custody.



## Why Community Providers need a System of Care

- ✓ To access mental health and substance abuse services for children and families.
- ✓ To access educational/special education services for children they are serving.
- ✓ To prevent children from entering state custody.
- ✓ To facilitate provision of coordinated, comprehensive services to address the range of needs of children they serve.



## Why Children Need a System of Care

- ✓ To access mental health and substance abuse services for themselves and their parents.
- ✓ To link children/families with needed public assistance and health services.
- ✓ To keep them actively engaged in and succeeding in school.
- ✓ To prevent them from entering state custody in order to access needed services.

## System of Care



"Giving Children and Families What They Need,  
When They Need It."