

System of Care



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1** Ensure that families, other caregivers, young adults and youth are full partners in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own services and in the policies and procedures that govern care for all children and youth in their community, state, territory, tribe, and nation.
- 2** Ensure availability and access to a broad, flexible array of effective, community-based services and supports for children and their families that address their emotional, social, educational, and physical needs, including traditional and nontraditional services that build on the family's natural and informal supports system.
- 3** Provide individualized services in accordance with the unique potentials and needs of each child and family, guided by a strengths-based, individualized service planning process developed in true partnership with the child, family and/or young adult.
- 4** Ensure availability of services and supports that are evidence-informed and promising practices, as well as interventions supported by practice-based evidence, and monitor the utilization and effectiveness of these services to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- 5** Ensure the delivery services and supports are available, utilized and accessible within the least restrictive, most normative environments that are clinically appropriate.
- 6** Ensure that services are integrated at the system level, with linkages between child-serving agencies and programs with mechanisms for administrative and system-level management, in planning, developing and coordinating services and funding boundaries through an, integrated care management process.
- 7** Provide care management, wraparound service planning or similar mechanisms at the practice level to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that children, young adults and their families can move through the system of services in accordance with their changing needs.
- 8** Provide developmentally appropriate behavioral health services and supports that promote protective factors, resiliency, trauma-informed care, and optimal social-emotional outcomes for young children and their families in their homes and community settings.
- 9** Provide developmentally, socially appropriate and trauma-informed services and supports to facilitate the transition of youth to adulthood and to the adult service system as needed.
- 10** Incorporate or link with behavioral health promotion, prevention, and early identification and intervention programs and initiatives to improve long-term outcomes, and to identify needs at an earlier stage and ensure behavioral health promotion and prevention activities are directed at all children and adolescents.
- 11** Incorporate continuous accountability and quality improvement mechanisms to track, monitor, and manage the achievement of system of care goals; fidelity to the system of care philosophy; and quality, effectiveness, and outcomes at the system level, practice level, and child and family level.
- 12** Protect the rights of children and families and promote and support effective advocacy efforts.
- 13** Provide services and supports without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, socio-economic status, geography, language, immigration status, or other characteristics, and ensure that services are sensitive and responsive to these differences.

Adapted from: Stroul, B., Blau, G., & Friedman, R. (2010). Updating the system of care concept and philosophy. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health.

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