

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY MAY 6, 2010

SYSTEM OF CARE

A System of Care is a network of services, supports and relationships built by committed people who have a stake in improving outcomes for infants, children, youth and families addressing serious emotional disturbances and the risk of such disturbances.

A System of Care is:

- Child-centered.
- Youth-guided.
- Family-driven.
- Strengths-based.
- Community-managed.
- Culturally competent and responsive.

Building a System of Care

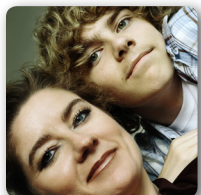
System of Care core principles include:

- Early identification and intervention.
- Access to a comprehensive and integrated array of services that address physical, emotional, social and educational needs.
- Individualized services guided by an individualized service plan.
- Services in the least restrictive, most normative environment that is clinically appropriate.
- Families as full participants.
- Case coordination to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner.
- Smooth transitions to the adult services system.

- Rights of children protected and effective advocacy efforts in place.
- Services provided without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, physical disability or other characteristics.
- Services sensitive and responsive to cultural differences and special needs.

Get Involved!

- Host a meeting in your local community to include members of and stakeholders in the children's serving system.
- Encourage open dialogue regarding system barriers and promote strengths-based, creative problem-solving.
- Encourage youth and family participation in all levels of dialogue regarding individual care and system development.
- Think outside the box!



For more information ...

<http://mentalhealth.samsha.gov/child/childhealth.asp>

FOCUS: Families and Organizations Collaborating for a United System is a New Mexico System of Care project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Funding for this project will assist the state in continuing to build networks of community services for children and families.