



## CAFB Branch Update Winter 2009

<http://www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov>

## Transforming Children's Mental Health in America

Family Driven Care is becoming more and more of a reality across the country. During the week of February 23, 2009 an historic event occurred in San Diego, CA when the Federation of Families, with Branch sponsorship, hosted the first ever Family Driven Care Policy Academy. The six States selected were: Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Tennessee.

Ask any of the state delegations and they will tell you that this was not easy work. They will also tell you that there have been significant advances in family driven care, and that including families at all levels of the system has reaped many benefits. Congratulations to the Federation of Families and the six pioneering States.

Gary Blau and Diane Sondheimer

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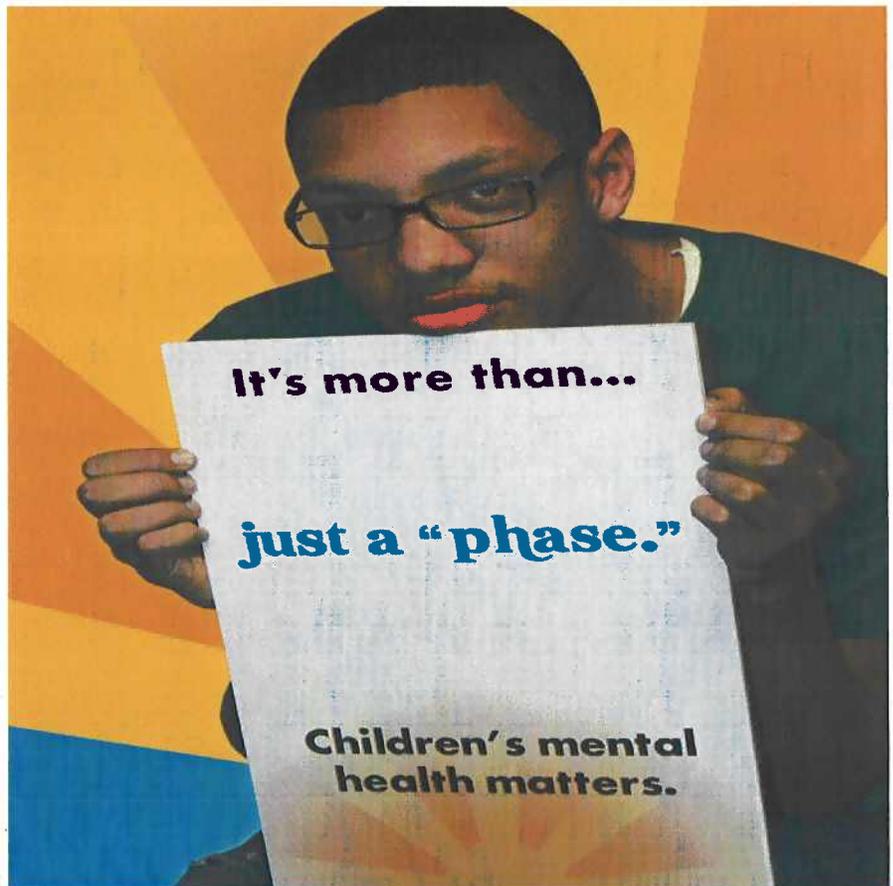
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## HEAR ME NOW



**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY  
MAY 7, 2009**

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) is a day for SAMHSA and the initiatives and communities it supports to promote positive youth development, resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with mental health needs and their families. Join the growing community of Awareness Day supporters who are getting the word out that "Children's Mental Health Matters". Visit <http://www.tapartnership.org/resources/awarenessday.asp#now> to find out how youth, SAMHSA-funded grantees and an impressive array of sponsors and supporters are helping to ensure that children and youth with mental health challenges can thrive at home, at school and in the community.

## Primer Hands On Training

The National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University is preparing for its next "Primer Hands On" training. This training focuses on capacity building across child-serving systems and stakeholder groups from states, tribes and communities, family organizations, and neighborhoods who play influential roles in the development of systems of care Based on *Building Systems of Care: A Primer*, by Sheila Pires, the training covers the structure and elements of effective systems of care and the strategic processes essential to engaging partners in systems building. The next training will be held April 16 and 17, 2009 in Washington, DC. For more information regarding the training, please contact Marisa Irvine at 301-770-2305.

**Please note:** The TA Partnership will sponsor a System of Care Primer Training for communities funded in 2008 on the following dates: Session 1 – May 20 – 21 and Session 2 – June 2 - 3.

### Circles of Care Grantee Meeting a Great Success!!

On February 2-4, 2009 in Portland, Oregon the Branch sponsored the first meeting of the Circles of Care IV program. Circles of Care is a 3-Year infrastructure grant that has funded 3 previous cohorts beginning in 1998. The grant is offered to American Indian/Alaska Native Tribes, tribal organizations and Urban Indian programs for the purpose of developing a model system of care to serve children with emotional challenges and their families. The meeting was attended by teams of 6 people from each of the 8 new grant communities: American Indian Center of Chicago, American Indian Health and Family Services in Detroit, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (South Dakota), Indian Center of Lincoln, Nebraska, Karuk Tribe of California, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe (Connecticut), Pueblo of San Felipe (New Mexico) and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota). The grantee meeting served as an orientation and technical assistance opportunity. The meeting was facilitated by the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Circles of Care Evaluation Technical Assistance Center at the University of Colorado Health Science Center. Presenters included representatives of previous Circles of Care grant programs who shared their wisdom and experience. Branch Chief Gary Blau opened the meeting with a keynote presentation, and project officers Andy Hunt and Susan Stromberg also attended to provide technical assistance and guidance to the grantees. The next grantee meeting will be held in August in Denver, Colorado.

#### SAVE THE DATE!!!

Summer 2009 System of Care Community Meeting  
Assembling the Pieces: Implementing Strategies for Sustaining  
Systems of Care

July 29-31, 2009 Hilton Anaheim California

Looking forward to seeing you all there!!!

## Cultural Competency at CMHS...

Eliminating Mental Health Disparities (EMHD) has been a priority for the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) as well as the CAFB. As part of the overall EMHD initiative, it was proposed that CMHS embark on an internal staff-driven initiative entitled "Working Together toward Cultural and Linguistic Competence." The purpose of this initiative is to conduct a self-assessment and implement a process to enhance organizational knowledge, skills and commitment to address mental health disparities. The proposed comprehensive approach will include education, training, assessment, program development and customer service. Results of this assessment will position CMHS to truly be a leader in this field. The Branch is excited to be part of this initiative.

### First Annual New Community Strategic Planning Meeting

On behalf of the Branch, the Technical Assistance Partnership conducted the first ever New Community Strategic Planning Meeting on February 5-6, 2009 in Gaithersburg, MD. The meeting brought together the 18 newly funded system of care communities to provide training, networking, and technical assistance. The New Communities Strategic Planning Meeting was designed in response to issues and challenges raised by previous system of care funded sites. Former sites stressed the need for early face-to-face contact with peers, the Branch, and technical assistance staff as well as initial assistance with the strategic planning process. The new communities had the opportunity to hear from current and graduated system of care communities, and we are excited to begin the system of care journey as a team!