

SYSTEMS OF HOPE

SOH VISION: An accepting and embracing community that promotes optimal development and emotional well-being of all children and their families, through the creation of a successful, accessible, and integrated care system.

SOH MISSION: To provide effective support and care which is family-driven and youth-guided to families and their children who are experiencing serious emotional and behavior problems. The Harris County Systems of Care will utilize integrated, holistic, and individualized methods based on strengths and an appreciation of the many cultures represented in our community.

SYSTEMS OF CARE DEFINITION: A spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children and youth with or at risk for mental health or other challenges and their families, that is organized into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and addresses their cultural and linguistic needs, in order to help them to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.

SYSTEM OF CARE CORE VALUES:

- 1) Family driven and youth guided, with the strengths and needs of the child and family determining the types and mix of services and supports provided.
- 2) Community based, with the locus of service as well as system management resting within a supportive, adaptive infrastructure of structures, processes, and relationships at the community level.
- 3) Cultural and linguistic competence, with agencies, programs, and services that reflect the cultural, racial, ethnic, and linguistic differences of the populations they serve, to facilitate access to and utilization of appropriate services and supports and to eliminate disparities in care.

SYSTEMS OF CARE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE DESIGNED TO:

- 1) 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 as well as natural and informal supports.
- 2) Provide individualized services in accordance with the unique potentials and needs of each child and family, guided by strength-based, wraparound service planning process and an individualized service plan developed in true partnership with the child and family.

- 3) Ensure that services and supports include evidence-informed and promising practices, as well as interventions supported by practice-based evidence, to ensure the effectiveness of services and improve outcomes for children and their families.
- 4) Deliver services and supports within the least restrictive, most normative environments that are clinically appropriate.
- 5) Ensure that families, other caregivers, and youth are full partners in all aspects of 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.
- 6) Ensure that services are integrated at the systems level, with linkages between child-serving agencies and programs across administrative and funding boundaries and mechanisms for system-level management, coordination, and integrated care management.
- 7) Provide care management or similar mechanisms at the practice level to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and those children and their families can move through the system of services in accordance with their changing needs.
- 8) Provide developmentally appropriate mental health services and supports that promote optimal social-emotional outcomes for young children and their families in their homes and community settings.
- 9) Provide developmentally appropriate services and supports to facilitate the transition of youth to adulthood and to the adult services system as needed.
- 10) Incorporate or link with mental health promotion, prevention, and early identification and intervention in order to improve long-term outcomes, including mechanisms to identify problems at an earlier stage and mental health promotion and prevention activities 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 effective advocacy efforts.
- 13) Provide services and supports without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender, gender expressions, sexual orientation, physical disability, socio-economic status, geography, language, immigration status, or other characteristics, and ensure that services are sensitive and responsive to these differences.

(Cited from: Updating the Systems of Care Concept and Philosophy by: Beth A. Stroul, M.Ed., Gary M. Blau, Ph.D., Robert M. Friedman, Ph.D., System of Care Monograph, 2010)