System of Care Defined

A comprehensive spectrum of services and supports which are organized into a coordinated network to meet the multiple and changing needs of individuals and their families.

Stroul & Friedman, 1986

System of Care Concept is...

✓ A framework and guide, not a prescription
✓ Flexible and creative
✓ Adaptive to community needs
✓ Consistent in philosophy

What We Know

• Systems of care facilitate coordination among each child’s service providers
• Families partner with public and private organizations to develop individualized service plans for their children
• Systems of care help children, youth, and families thrive at home, in school, and in the community throughout their lives.
**What We Know**

- Statistically significant social and emotional improvement from program entry to 6 months after beginning services for children 8 years and younger and their families
- Within 6 months after entering systems of care, the number of children aged 8 years and younger changing afterschool or childcare settings fell by nearly 43%
- Behavioral and emotional symptoms decreased among nearly one-third of the children (31%) within the first 6 months after entering systems of care

**Two realities**

- Our focus is on children and youth with mental health challenges
- Prevention is critical

**AAP Actively Involved**

**Collaboration is Key…**

We need to continue to work closely together!