

Embracing Change: Improving the Health of ALL Children

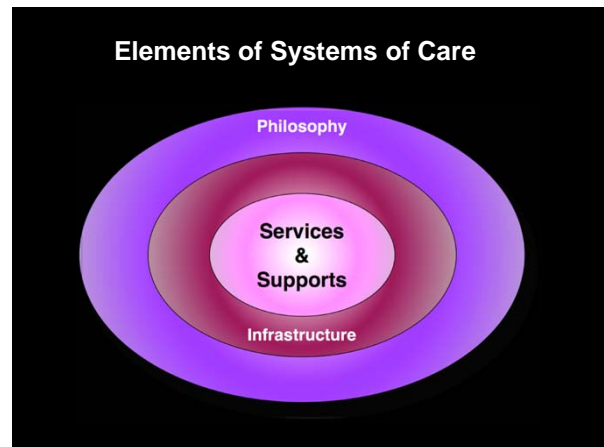
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Substance Abuse Services and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD • July 28, 2011



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

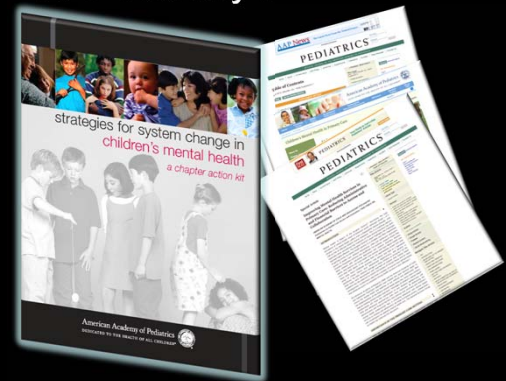
- Systems of care facilitate coordination among each child's service providers
- Families partner with public and private organizations to develop individualized service plans for their children
- Systems of care help children, youth, and families thrive at home, in school, and in the community throughout 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



AAP Actively Involved



Two realities

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



Collaboration is Key...

We need to continue to work closely together!

