

**Texas Children’s Mental Health Forum**  
**Discussion Notes**  
**Tuesday July 20, 2010**

**Topic:**  
**Systems of Care:**  
**What does It Look Like in Texas?**

*Notes are provided to share highlights of Forum meetings with those who are interested in the topics being discussed but are unable to attend. Texans Care for Children and the Texas Health Institute strive to capture an accurate outline of the information and discussion shared during each meeting. However, these notes should not be viewed as an official or complete record of the meeting, and some inaccuracies may be contained. Please contact [Josette Saxton](#) at Texans Care for Children to report any significant errors*

**Overview of Texas’ Approach to System of Care**

Presented by Sherri Hammack, Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth, Health and Human Services Commission [Click here to view presentation](#)

**Systems of Care:** comprehensive spectrum of mental health and other necessary services which are organized into a coordinated network to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

Cornerstones of Systems of Care:

- Family-driven
- Youth-Guided
- Evidence-based/Clinical Excellence
- Cultural & Linguistic Competence

Wraparound Approach:

- Family Voice and Choice
- Team Based
- Natural Supports
- Collaboration
- Community Based: Services provided in the least restrictive environment and as close to home as possible.
- Culturally Competent
- Individualized Supports: family decides who is going to be on their “team.” Services tailored to meet the needs of a specific youth or family rather than offering the same supports to everyone.
- Strengths Based: Instead of focusing on problems, focus on strengths of specific children and families.
- Outcome Based

Texas has had six federal Systems of Care grants since 1998:

- The Children’s Partnership – Travis County
- Community Solutions of Fort Worth

- Border Children’s Mental Health Collaborative – El Paso
- Systems of Hope – Harris County
- Hand in Hand – Palo Pinto, Parker, Hood, Johnson & Tarrant Counties
- Rural Children’s Initiative – Lamb, Floyd, Hale, Briscoe, Motley, Dickens, Bailey, Palmer, Castro, Swisher, & Crosby Counties

#### System of Care Communities: Doing Business Differently

- Parent & Youth Partnerships at all Levels
- Child & Family Teams
- Interagency agreements
- Flexible funding to pay for individualized plans
- Service delivery using evidence-based wraparound
- Training, training, and more training

#### Texas Integrated Funding Initiative (TIFI) Communities:

- State funded initiative that “grooms” communities to apply for federal Systems of Care grants
- Legislature authorizes up to six TIFI sites
- Sites currently funded:
  - Alliance for Children and Families of Denton County
  - Bexar County

#### Resources:

- [10 Principles of the Wraparound Process](#)
- [Building a Systems of Care: A Primer](#)
- [Family Driven Care: Are We There Yet?](#)

#### **The Children’s Partnership (Travis County)**

Presented by Laura Peveto, Prevention & Intervention Manager, Travis County HHS & Veteran Services, Office of Children Services and Christy Kuehn, Quality Assurance Coordinator, The Children’s Partnership [Click here to view presentation](#)

#### Key Components

- Systems of Care values and Wraparound Services
- The Local Mental Health Authority in Travis County, Integral Care, is the managed service organization (MSO) for system of care initiatives, managing the flexible funds and the provider network (traditional and non-traditional providers)
- The Clinical Manager – software system that allows for collection of demographic information and the developments of individualized plans and services utilization

### Community Partners for Children (CPC) –

- Travis County’s Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG): single point of community collaboration for children and youth with complex needs
- Bridge Services – fills three gaps:
  - children who require care coordination but are not eligible for The Children’s Partnership (TCP) services;
  - children who are eligible and on wait list, but are in crisis and need help right away;
  - children who require additional services dollars to be maintained in the community by one of the CPC partner agencies

### The Children’s Partnership (TCP) Initiatives:

- Serves families using the wraparound process facilitated by **Care Coordinators** and **Parent Liaisons** (parents of children with complex needs who have successfully navigated the systems)
- TRIAD – program designed to provide funding, interagency coordination, and access to residential treatment services for children who cannot be safely maintained in the community with traditional and non-traditional supports.
- Youth and Family Assessment Center – provided by Communities in Schools in 12 AISD schools. Supportive services provided by Travis County Community Centers. School Readiness Camps provided in conjunction with CIS, 4-H programs, and AISD.

### **Hand in Hand Project, Pinto, Parker, Hood, Johnson & Tarrant Counties**

Presented by Sean Allen, Project Director and Jamie Souders, Local Family Contact

[Click here to view presentation](#)

### Mental Health Connection:

- Collaboration of public and private agencies, and individuals who need mental health care services and their caregivers
- Monthly meetings
- Vision – no wrong door to mental health services

### Legacy from First Systems of Care grant

- Community Solutions of Fort Worth received federal SOC grant (2002-2008)
- Family Resource Centers – in four schools
- Datalink (management information system)
- Family Organization
  - Family & Consumer Connection – advocacy group
  - Community Evaluation Team -- families conducted the interviews
  - Links of Hope – support group
- Expansion of Evidence-based Practices – annual conference – “Bridging the Gap”
- Better Outcomes for Children and Families

### Hand in Hand Project- Second SOC Grant:

- Focus on Early Childhood, responding to seeing a 35% increase in number of preschoolers requiring inpatient psychiatric care in children's hospitals.
- Target Population: children aged 0-6 experiencing severe emotional disturbance
- Expanding Systems of Care to rural communities
  - Wraparound
  - Respite
  - DataLink
- Working with local grass-roots organizations
- Connecting families with other families
  - Family mentor program
  - Play groups/Support groups
  - Social networking and technology
- Training
  - Wraparound training
  - Statewide certification for home visitors
  - Cultural competency training
  - Early childhood education
  - Training for childcare providers
  - Training clinicians in evidence-based practices

### Challenges:

- High levels of stigma in rural communities, particularly among fathers
- Lack of mental health services for young children, particularly in rural communities
- Young parents struggling with their own mental health and substance abuse issues
- Increased number of children in kinship care
- Physicians not familiar with children's mental health

### **Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative, El Paso**

Presented by Rita Ruelas, Project Director [Click here to view presentation](#)

- The Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative has faced many challenges with sustainability after the end of the grant in 2009 with reductions in staff. There are greatly reduced expenditures per child in BCMHC instead of residential care -- \$324,000 as opposed to \$1,027,004.76 and \$49.00 daily rate as opposed to \$126.49.
- BCMHC has demonstrated great savings to the different agencies and support continues.
- Traditional and Non-traditional Services
- Parent Liaison; Youth Coordinator
- At first it was very difficult to engage parents in training, but "word-of-mouth" has been highly effective in getting parents involved.

### Non-traditional Services:

- Partnerships to provide role models to our families and children – Big Brother Big Sisters of El Paso

### Leadership Academy for Children

- Play Therapy
- Story Times
- Games

### Leadership Academy for Youth

- Dress for Success
- How to Apply for College

### Constructing a Youth Service Agency

- Building design utilized Systems of Care values
- One-stop shop for children’s services:
  - Assessment Center
  - Pediatric and Dental Clinic
  - Emergency Shelter
  - TRIAD (MHMH, CPS, JPD)
  - 501c3 Information Area
  - Ft. Bliss
  - Sheriff’s Information
  - Child Welfare Board
  - DRO
  - CASA
  - Border Children’s Mental Health Collaborative
  - Rental Space for financial sustainability

### **Legislative Policy Priorities and Recommendations**

Josette Saxton with Texans Care for Children

- Organizations have the opportunity to sign on in support of the the Texas Children’s Mental Health Forum’s Policy Priorities and Recommendations for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session.
- [View Priorities and Recommendations and Sign On Form.](#)

### **Announcements**

**Mark Your Calendars! Promising Practices in Serving Children with Complex Behavioral Health Needs and Their Families: A System of Care in Texas.** Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM -3:00PM at the Capitol Auditorium, Austin. Keynote speaker is Gary Blau, Ph.D., Chief of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch at the Center for Mental Health Services with SAMHSA. [Click here for flyer.](#)

**Next Forum meeting: Looking at Revenue Options.** Tuesday Aug 31, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Texas Medical Association, Thompson Auditorium, Austin. Presentation by the Center for Public Policy Priorities.

National Federation of Families Board Meeting, San Antonio, 9-5 July 29-30, 2010.

Hogg Foundation announced grants to five nonprofit advocacy groups – three in Austin and two in Houston – to hire an in-house fellow and provide the fellow with an experienced mentor. Fellows will work on specific projects to improve mental health policy in Texas. Hogg Foundation has five policy fellows:

- Texans Care for Children
- Advocacy Inc.
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Mental Health America of Greater Houston
- ChildBuilders in Houston