

System of Care Guiding Principles (subset)

1. **Broad, flexible array of community services.** 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. **Individualized, strengths-based plan.** Provide individualized services in accordance with the unique potentials and needs of each child and family, guided by a strengths-based, wraparound service planning process and an individualized service plan developed in true partnership with the child and family.
3. **Evidence-informed or promising practices.** 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. **Services in most normative setting.** Deliver services and supports within the least restrictive, most normative environments that are clinically appropriate.
5. **Family and youth full partnership.** Ensure that families, other caregivers, and youth are full partners in all aspects of the 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. **Services are integrated/linked with other programs.** Ensure that services are integrated at the system 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. **Effective care management and system navigation.** Provide care management or similar mechanisms at the practice level to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that children and their families can move through the system of services in accordance with their changing needs.
8. **Promote social-emotional outcomes for young children.** 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. **Support youth transitions to young adulthood.** Provide developmentally appropriate services and supports to facilitate the transition of youth to adulthood and to the adult service system as needed.
10. **Promote early identification and intervention.** 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. **Services are responsive to individual differences.** Provide services and supports without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical disability, socio-economic status, geography, language, immigration status, or other characteristics, and services should be sensitive and responsive to these differences.