

## **VALUES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE SYSTEM OF CARE**

### **CORE VALUES**

1. The system of care should be child centered and family focused, with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provided.
2. The system of care should be community based, with the locus of services as well as management and decision making responsibility resting at the community level.
3. The system of care should be culturally competent, with agencies, programs, and services that are responsive to the cultural, racial, and ethnic differences of the populations they serve.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should have access to a comprehensive array of services that address the child's physical, emotional, social, and educational needs.
2. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should receive individualized services in accordance with the unique needs and potentials of each child and guided by an individualized service plan.
3. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should receive services within the least restrictive, most normative environment that is clinically appropriate.
4. The families and surrogate families of children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should be full participants in all aspects of the planning and delivery of services
5. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should receive services that are integrated, with linkages between child-servicing agencies and programs and mechanisms for planning, developing, and coordinating services.
6. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should be provided with case management or similar mechanisms to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that they can move through the system of services in accordance with their changing needs.
7. Early identification and intervention for children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should be promoted by the system of care in order to enhance the likelihood of positive outcomes.
8. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should be ensured smooth transitions to the adult service system as they reach maturity.
9. The rights of children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should be protected, and effective advocacy efforts for children and youth with emotional disturbances should be promoted.
10. Children with or at risk for serious emotional disturbances should receive services without regard to race, religion, national origin sex, physical disability, or other characteristics, and services should be sensitive and responsive to cultural differences and special needs.