

**Office of Mental Health and Addition Services  
Children's Mental Health System Change Initiative**

**System Structure & Functions**

**Policy Two**

**September 22, 2004**

**It is the policy of the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to develop a statewide comprehensive, coordinated, culturally competent, child centered, family driven continuum of care for children with serious emotional disorders and their families. OMHAS, the Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) and the Mental Health Organizations (MHOs) will employ these procedures:**

- 1. The MHOs will ensure that children who are determined to be eligible for the Integrated Service Array (ISA) will be given continuous care coordination, and facilitation of access to and coordination of the ISA.**
  
- 2. The ISA is a full continuum of coordinated, culturally competent mental health services available to children that will be based on family choice and medical appropriateness. Services chosen from this continuum will be delivered in a coordinated, flexible and individualized manner. These services will be delivered in the child's most natural environment. The continuum includes services such as:**
  - A comprehensive mental health assessment,**
  - Psychiatric evaluation and medication management,**
  - Care coordination,**
  - Home and community based individual, group, and family therapy,**
  - Home and community based individual and group skills training**
  - Respite care and family support,**
  - Crisis services,**
  - Behavioral support services,**
  - Psychiatric day or partial day treatment (in funded communities),**

- **Psychiatric residential treatment services, and**
  - **Acute or sub-acute psychiatric hospitalization.**
3. A Child and Family Team will facilitate Integrated Service Array planning. At a minimum the team will be comprised of the child, when appropriate, the family and the care coordinator. Other child serving providers, involved agencies and natural supports as identified by the family will be invited to participate in the planning, implementation, and oversight process.
  4. The Child & Family Team will collaborate on planning by creating and reviewing a Service Coordination Plan that will identify child and family strengths and mental health needs across all relevant life domains. **The ISA plan will be coordinated with all other plans related to a child's life such as an Individual Education Plan, permanency plan, etc.** The plan will include short and long-term goals to meet the needs, a proactive safety/crisis plan that averts potential crises without placement disruptions and transition planning upon exit from Integrated Service Array. **The MHOs may authorize mental health services in this plan.**
  5. The MHOs, **in conjunction with the CMHPs**, will be responsible for identifying a local Community Care Coordination Committee. Membership of the committee will be representative of the local system of care. The committee will provide practice-level consultation and problem solving to families, providers, child-serving agencies and child & family teams as well as assist in identifying needed community services and supports.
  6. The MHOs will be responsible for implementing Children's System Coordination to ensure that the availability, frequency, intensity and quality of Integrated Service Array meet the needs of the children and families they serve. This function may be performed locally or regionally. System coordination will include utilization management and quality assurance and improvement of Integrated Service Array planning and implementation. **The MHOs will demonstrate system collaboration with the CMHPs to ensure local or regional Children's System Coordination.**

7. The MHOs will be responsible for forming regional or local Children's Mental Health System Advisory Councils. Membership of the councils will be representative of the regional or local system of care and comprised of 51% representation of family members, older adolescent or young adult members. **The MHO Advisory Council will reflect the cultures and ethnic groups of OHP covered members in the service area.** The councils will provide oversight for the system and provide to MHOs and LMHAs recommendations and findings about its improvement.
  
8. A State Children's Mental Health System Advisory Council will be formed to advise OMHAS on oversight of the children's mental health system and mental health policies and programs for children statewide. The council will be linked to the OMHAS Planning Management and Advisory Council. It will be comprised of statewide stakeholders and 51% representation of family members, older adolescent or young adult members, **as well as reflect the cultural and ethnic groups of the state.** The Council will make recommendations and generate findings to OMHAS.