

**Memorandum Of Agreement
Creating A System Of Care Approach
For Our Children and Their Families In Alamance County**

Purpose of Agreement:

We agree to work together to implement a System of Care approach for our children and their families in Alamance County. To this end, we agree to work together as full and equal partners to create neighborhood and community environments in Alamance County that empower and support these children and their families to reach their full potential as responsible productive and caring individuals.

The MOA partners will develop a System of Care approach adhering to the following core values and guiding principles:

Core Values:

1. Services and supports provided for children and their families should be child centered and family focused, with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services and supports provided;
2. Services and supports should be neighborhood and community based, with the focus of services, supports and decision- making responsibility regarding these resting at the local level;
3. Services and supports should be culturally competent, with agencies, programs and services that are responsive to the cultural, racial, and ethnic strengths and differences of the children and families they serve.

Guiding Principles:

Children and their families should:

1. Have access to a comprehensive array of services and supports that advance strengths and address physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and educational needs;
2. Receive individualized services and supports in accordance with their unique strengths, needs and potentials, guided by one integrated and individualized Child and Family Team plan;

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3. Receive services and supports within the least restrictive, most normative environment that is appropriate and safe;
4. Be full participants in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their services and supports;
5. Receive services and supports that are integrated, linked among agencies and providers and promote common mechanisms for planning, developing, and coordinating services;
6. Be provided case management or similar mechanisms to ensure that multiple services and supports are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner so that movement through the system of services and supports responds to their changing needs;
7. Have the benefit of prevention, early identification and intervention to enhance the likelihood of positive outcomes;
8. Have their rights protected through effective advocacy;
9. Receive services without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender and sexual orientation, physical disability, or other characteristics, with services and supports that are sensitive and responsive to cultural differences and unique needs.

Implementation of Agreement

We agree to work together to build an array of services, supports and linkages among the public agencies, families, their neighborhoods and communities that is responsive to our children and their families through the following activities:

1. Empower our representatives in existing collaborative entities to implement System of Care approaches, in accordance with SOC values and principles. Develop genuine, equal and supportive partnerships among all local collaborative entities;
2. Actively promote the participation of family members in all local collaborative entities, and cultivate effective parent and service provider partnerships through other formal and informal strategies;
3. Work together to identify common goals and promote the development of a common language that both child-serving professionals and parents understand;

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4. Provide individualized, comprehensive, community- based, culturally responsive and family driven services/supports through our respective agencies, organizations and resources;
5. Develop and use a common Child and Family Team planning form to be used by all agencies;
6. Integrate existing services and supports with other identified resources;
7. Actively support the evaluation of service outcomes in order to inform decision-making and improve service delivery and processes that involve families receiving services;
8. Share training information and promote cross- agency/provider/family training activities that support the development of System of Care approaches;
9. Maximize existing resources and develop sustainable funding strategies among public agencies as well as seek additional funding for early intervention and prevention programming;
10. Actively promote the development of protocols to review the needs of children and families receiving services from multiple agencies to establish effective, accessible and integrated services and supports, and to reduce duplication of effort;
11. Work together to seek and share new resources in support of this MOA;
12. Actively promote public awareness and community support for a collaborative System of Care approach;

Scope of Agreement:

It is understood that while each of the agencies represented in this agreement have well- defined duties and responsibilities that are mandated by State and Federal Law, this agreement is not intended to and shall not diminish responsibility or supplant the existence of services or authority of the participating agency.

This agreement is intended to be a living document that reflects the intentions of Alamance County's Government, its agencies and its community partners to work together to develop a community- based System of Care approach. Comprehensive services and supports for our children and their families require board and ongoing family, neighborhood and community partnerships. Other partners are encouraged and invited to join in this agreement as desired.

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The undersigned will review and update this document every year. The individuals listed below originally executed this Memorandum of Agreement on this the 26th day of November, 2007.

The Honorable James Roberson, Chief District Court Judge

Susan Osborne, Director, Alamance County DSS

Dan Hahn, CEO, Alamance- Caswell- Rockingham LME

Chief Mike Gauldin, Burlington Police Department

Edward Grady, Chief Court Counselor, Alamance DJJDP

Dan Ingle, Alamance County Commissioner

Dr. Randy Bridges, Superintendent, Alamance- Burlington School System

Karen Russell, Alamance County Guardian Ad Litem

Tim Green, Director, Alamance County Health Department

Cindy Watkins, Executive Director, Alamance Partnership for Children

Sherry Macinnis, Family Advocate, Exchange Club Family Center

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Terry Johnson, Alamance County Sheriff

Cindy Brady, Executive Director, Alamance United Way