

Louisiana is developing a statewide Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) for some children and youth with behavioral and mental health problems. The CSoC project is an initiative of Governor Jindal and is led by executives of the Office of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the Louisiana Department of Education.

Louisiana's at-risk children and their families currently face a fragmented service delivery model that lacks coordination, is often inadequate to meet their needs and is usually difficult to navigate.

Through successful partnerships with public and private entities, coordinated services will target at risk children, youth and their families.

Over 40 agency and stakeholder leaders have convened to develop the values and principles shaping the project, identify the target population and establish the goals for implementation.

Population Focus

The CSoC will initially serve Louisiana's at-risk children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges or co-occurring disorders and who are in or at imminent risk of out-of-home placement.

Out-of-home placements are defined as:

- » Detention
- » Secure Care facilities
- » Psychiatric hospitals
- » Residential treatment facilities
- » Development disabilities facilities
- » Addiction facilities
- » Alternative schools
- » Homeless as identified by DOE
- » Foster care

Values and Principles

The CSoC is an evidence-based approach that is part of a national movement to develop family- driven and youth-guided care with the additional values and principles that have been adopted by Louisiana's Leadership Team:

- » Home- and community-based
- » Strength-based and individualized
- » Culturally and linguistically competent
- » Integrated across systems
- » Connected to natural helping networks
- » Data-driven, outcomes oriented

Goals of Implementation

- » Reduce the current number and future admissions of children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges or co-occurring disorders in out-of-home placements
- » Reduce the State's cost of providing services by leveraging Medicaid and other funding sources, as well as increase service effectiveness and efficiency and reduce duplication across agencies
- » Improve the overall outcomes of these children and their caretakers served by the coordinated system of care

The organizational structure for planning and implementation for the CSoC is led by the Executives of the participating State agencies. This Leadership Team has appointed a Planning Group with representation of each agency and key stakeholders that meets regularly to develop the system design and services array, and to assess the infrastructure requirements for implementation of the CSoC. The Planning Group is working through a number of work groups made up of agency staff and stakeholders who have expertise and knowledge in particular areas key to CSoC design. The Planning Group is charged to present its recommended CSoC design to the Leadership Team for action in July. The Leadership Team is expected to solicit feedback and make its decision regarding the recommended CSoC design and financing strategies by the end of August. Once the CSoC design is finalized, detailed planning will begin for phased in implementation beginning in January 2011.

For more information, including work plans and timelines, please visit www.dss.la.gov/csoc.