

Statewide Family Network Overview

PURPOSE

To provide a Statewide Family Network to support and assist families and caregivers of youth that:

- Have a mental health problem;
- May have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems;
- May be in contact with the juvenile justice or courts systems;
- May require emergency services; or
- May require long term community mental health and other supports.

The mission/vision for the Statewide Family Network is:

- To assist families/caregivers of children with mental health challenges in accessing appropriate mental health services in their communities through support and educational opportunities.
- To assist and prepare families to effectively communicate their child's needs and to provide a family perspective related to children's mental health issues.
- To incorporate Systems of Care values and principles throughout the work. Systems of Care is defined as "a broad flexible array of effective services and supports for a defined multi-system involved population, which is organized into a coordinated network, integrates care planning and care management across multiple levels, is culturally and linguistically competent, builds meaningful partnerships with families and with youth at service delivery, management and policy levels, has supportive management and policy infrastructure, and is data driven."

SCOPE OF WORK

Family Education

- Provide training opportunities on mental health topics and service system access
- Identify and refer families to current community groups that provide training and information on mental health issues
- Develop a process to disseminate information related to training on children's mental health topics, access to services and supports, and status of family network activities.

Family Support

- Create opportunities for the development of family support groups
- Identify and refer families to current community mental health support groups

Family Empowerment and Development of Resiliency Skills through Mentoring and Training

- Navigate the service system including accessing needed services and tools to assist them in finding needed services.
- Community networking, resource mapping, organizing and utilizing information that connects them to community resources from both the public and private sectors.
- Identify natural and informal supports (friends, family members, clergy, teachers, etc.) to help with mental health treatment and/or provide extra support to the family
- Effectively working with their child's service providers

Development of Family Leadership Skills through Mentoring and Training to Ensure Representation of the Family Voice within the Children's Mental Health System

- Prepare families to participate on workgroups, boards, commissions, etc. that relate to children's mental health policy and planning
- Prepare and support families in educating professionals, providers, lawmakers and the general public about children's mental health from a family and youth perspective
- Assist families in the development of local family network support groups
- Develop system for providing and disseminating stipends to support family participation in workgroups, boards, commissions, etc.; stipends to cover mileage, travel, and childcare expenses