




The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

**Achieving the Promise:  
Transforming Mental Health Care in America for Children and Families**

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Brief Comments  
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**Transforming Concepts**


- Recovery and Resilience
- Consumer and Family-Driven
- Rebalancing of Services and Financing
- Using What Works
- Technology to promote access, quality and information sharing




**What is the promise for children?**

- Vision and Blueprint
- Our communities, states, Nation provide access to comprehensive, home- and community-based family-centered services and supports for children with mental health disorders and their families and
- Create conditions that promote positive mental health for all children

» *Subcommittee Report on Children and Families*



Is there a children's goal area or recommendation?




**An Action Item for Children Mental Health Stakeholders?**

**Goal 2** Mental Health Care Is Consumer and Family Driven

**Recommendation 2.3**  
Align relevant Federal programs to improve access and accountability  
*Align child-serving Federal agencies*

**Recommendation 2.4**  
Develop Comprehensive State Mental Health Plans  
*Create a children's focus in these plans to be supported by State Infrastructure Grants*



**An Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health Stakeholders**

**Goal 3** Disparities in Mental Health Services Are Eliminated

**Recommendation 3.1**  
Improve access to quality care that is culturally competent

**Recommendation 3.2**  
Improve access to quality care in rural and geographically remote areas  
*Create a focus on children of color and rural youth*



## An Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health Stakeholders

### Goal 5 Excellent Mental Health Care Is Delivered and Research Is Accelerated

#### Recommendation 5.2

Advance evidence-based practices (EBPs) using dissemination and demonstration projects and create a public-private partnership to guide their implementation

*Focus on EBPs for children; role of families in development of EBPs; examine validity for diverse youth, youth with co-occurring disorders...*



## An Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health Stakeholders

### Goal 5 Excellent Mental Health Care Is Delivered and Research Is Accelerated

#### Recommendation 5.4

Develop knowledge base in 4 understudied areas: disparities, trauma, medications, acute care.

- *Long-term safety and efficacy of psychotropic medications for children*
- *Effect of trauma on children and families*



## Children & Families Issue Paper

- 9 Policy Areas
- 26 Policy Options
- 125 Implementation Strategies
- Broad array of stakeholder input: national, regional, local advocacy, provider, family organizations, family members, youth, providers, researchers, policy makers; mental health, primary care, child welfare, juvenile justice, education....



## Standards of Care

- Home and Community-based Care
- Family Partnerships
- Comprehensive Services and Supports
- Cultural Competence
- Individualized Care
- Evidence-based Practices
- Coordination
- Early Identification and Intervention
- Accountability

*Aligns with system of care values, principles*



## Children & Families Issue Paper: 9 Policy Areas

- Responsibility and Financing
- Family & Youth Partnerships and Support
- Access to Care and Reduce Disparities
- Strengthen/Broaden Array of Services
- Develop & Apply Knowledge
- Build Workforce
- Prevent Disorders
- Understanding and Stigma
- Accountability and Quality Improvement




## 1. Strengthen Responsibility and Financing to Reduce Fragmentation

- **Policy Option:** Cross-agency comprehensive public health approach to children's mental health at Federal and State levels
  - Federal Interagency entity
  - State incentive grants to implement cross-agency approach/State Comprehensive Plan




## 1. Strengthen Responsibility and Financing to Reduce Fragmentation

- **Policy Option:** Finance a broad array of services and supports
  - CMS facilitate use of Medicaid to finance home- and community-based services/supports
  - State re-balancing and use of Medicaid in individualized, flexible services
  - Enable families to buy-in to Medicaid, permit case rates and bundled reimbursement
  - SAMHSA, CMS exchange TA w/ state Medicaid directors, children's mental health directors and state family organizations



## 2. Strengthen Family and Youth Partnerships and Family Support


- **Policy Option:** Expand support of family organizations to provide information and training
  - Adequate funding for statewide family organizations
  - Develop their capacity to train/inform families re evidence-based practices, service effectiveness, QA
  - Fed/State contracts with family organization to provide information on EBPs to help families develop plans of care



## 2. Strengthen Family and Youth Partnerships and Family Support

- **Policy Option:** provide coverage for family support services in public and private insurance
  - Include in benefit design
  - NFI CMS Respite Care Demonstration Project

Ex.: Legislation: National Family Caregiver Support Program (Older Americans Act, 2001) provides comprehensive multifaceted support, including respite to caregivers of elderly.



## 4. Strengthen/Broaden Array of Services to Address Gaps in Services

Policy Options

- Individualize Care: single plan of care (3)
- Broaden Range of Services (8)
- Strengthen Early Childhood Mental Health (7)
- Address Needs of Youth in Juvenile Justice (6)
- Address Needs of Youth in Child Welfare (5)
- Promote Mental Health in Education System (10)
- Enhance Capacity of Primary Health Care (3)
- Achieve Cultural Competence (9)



## What's Next?

- [www.mentalhealthcommission.gov](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov)
- SAMHSA Implementation: "First National Action Agenda"
- State, local implementation activities