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

Larke Nahme Huang, Ph.D.
Georgetown University

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?

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

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...*

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**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....

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**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*

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**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

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**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

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