Transforming Systems of Care for Youth and Their Families in America

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This graphic shows all of the areas of the country that have had, or currently have, a funded system of care grant or cooperative agreement. As you can see, the original CASSP grants spawned a movement that has resulted in the funding of grants and cooperative agreements all across the United States and in the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico.

Our current level of funding has helped make significant inroads into addressing the system of care development efforts taking place in 121 communities in 49 states across the country.

YOU ARE PART OF A COMMUNITY
Transformation = vision plus beliefs plus action times continuous quality improvement squared.

**Vision** provides direction for the work we do

**Beliefs** guide the work we do

- paramount in this work are the guiding values and principles of Systems of Care.. Principles such as: access to a comprehensive array of services; individualized services, least restrictive, family participation that is meaningful from the family perspective, services that are integrated and coordinated, early identification and intervention so symptoms don’t exacerbate, services that protect the rights of youth, and services that are culturally competent.

**Action** is taken to make our beliefs a reality

Continuous quality improvement ensures that our actions reflect the wishes and needs of the community being served

– this is the heart of what we are doing in tribes, states and communities.

**Continuous Quality Improvement**

Continuous quality improvement ensures that our actions reflect our beliefs and the wishes and needs of the community.
At the Branch we have articulated the transformation equation in the form of a logic model that helps all of us stay focused on what we need to do to better support state, tribal and local efforts to transform children’s mental health.

Notice that under the heading “Transforming Children’s Mental Health in America are five categories. These categories (family-driven, youth guided, evidence-based, clinical excellence and cultural and linguistic competence) are where we focus all of our efforts. In one way or another, what we do touches significantly in each of these areas. At the Branch, we never lose site of this.

Below the five categories are three columns that describe the a) context in which we are doing this work; b) our strategies for making the 5 categories come to life; and c) the outcomes we hope to achieve. Underscoring all of that is our commitment to continuous quality improvement.

On the left-hand side of the logic model is our foundation - our vision, mission and the target population we are focused on.
Check out what’s happening…. 
www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov

Logic Model  MHT SIG
Communication Plan  CLC
Fact Sheets  Building Bridges
25 New Sites  Collaborations
7 New Circles Sites
From Ordinary…

• If we want ordinary results… we can drift in the river and follow the current – that’s nice, but it’s average!

• To get ordinary results… see a problem… talk… commiserate, etc.
• If we want extraordinary results - we become the current.

• To get extraordinary results -
Transformation scorecard. I encourage you to meet with your staff, your colleagues and key community members to begin a transformation dialogue that focuses on these five areas:

**Family-driven & Youth Guided** ~ needs to be a dedicated commitment to expand and enhance philosophies around the redefining of who you are

**Cultural and linguistic competence** ~ need specialized identification within the position statement about culture and language and how that impacts the delivery and receipt of services.

**Evidence-based & clinical excellence** ~ specialized component on behavioral issues - separate section about behavior management philosophy - particularly in the area of reducing seclusion and restraint

**Continuous quality improvement** ~ would love to see redoubling of effort regarding continuous quality improvement framework

Ask yourselves how you are doing in each area and how you can improve.

Strength - integrating into systems of care
When I think of what it is we are trying to accomplish - transforming mental health in America, I am reminded of the title of the Sheryl Crow song “Every day is a winding road.” Our journey along the “Transformation Highway” is a bit like a winding road. It is definitely not a straight shot. We all know too well that there are often twists and turns that we sometimes see coming and sometimes come up unexpectedly.

But my firm belief is that if we travel this road together, building in accountability for our actions and clear family driven measurements that can help chart our progress, we will lead the way in not only achieving strong Systems of Care but will lead the way in the quest to transform mental health in America.

The immediate challenge before all of us is to think of the many little things we can be doing in the seven priority areas identified by the CCC to help us reach the tipping point, where the transformation of mental health in America becomes a reality.
The final point I want to make with you this morning is the critical importance of reaching out to your colleagues and working together.

The successful team, organization or system of care is one that works together. The family-driven approach called for in the President’s New Freedom Commission report will not be easy to achieve. It will take the combined efforts of families, providers and community members all working together. With the strength of the family leadership in this room, and with the strength of those emerging family leaders who will follow you, I am confident that we will soon see the day when family voice truly drives what gets designed and delivered for youth with mental health needs and their families.
And finally, having a bad hair day? Hey, no one said it would be easy. And you know full well that those of us involved in this work are definitely resilient.

Show your resilient spirit and make that bad hair a new style. Enjoy the conference and leave here motivated to be change agents for strengthened Systems of Care for youth and adults.

Thank you.