

## The Evolving Role of Residential Treatment in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service System

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## Factors Influencing the Future of Residential Treatment

- Pressure to adopt system of care principles
- Pressure to offer non-residential care
- CMS demonstration to develop non-residential services as alternative to residential
- Recent attention on abuse in unlicensed RTCs may lead to increased scrutiny of entire RTC sector

Reference: Behar et al., 2007; GAO Report, 2007

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## Potential Factors Influencing the Ability of RTCs to Respond to Pressures

- Financial constraints
- Workforce orientation
- Licensing and regulation
- Historical tension between residential and community-based service providers
- Only resource in communities

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## Project Goals

- Understand how RTCs are responding to these pressures
- Develop a “baseline” to measure future change
- Highlight strategies that RTCs may be able to use to overcome barriers

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## Specific Objectives of Project:

- Determine the extent to which RTCs are adopting system-of-care principles and offering non-residential services
- Identify the policy and financial barriers to adopting SOC principles and developing non-residential services
- Determine the extent to which RTCs participate in the the assessment of whether residential treatment treatment is necessary versus less restrictive services

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## Methods

- Advisory panel of youth, parents, providers, SOC leaders, payers, state officials, trade organizations
- Key-informant interviews with stakeholders
- Representative survey of residential treatment center directors
- Disseminate findings through issue briefs

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### Example Key Informant Interview Questions

- How are parents and youth involved in the governance and oversight of RTCs?
- Do RTCs in your community assess whether less restrictive services could address the needs of youth?
- What factors impede adoption of SOC principles and development of non-residential services?

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### Survey of Residential Treatment Center Directors

- Working with trade organizations to develop comprehensive list of RTCs
- Sampling from SAMHSA 2008 National Survey of Mental Health Treatment Facilities
- Examine responses to our survey with SAMHSA data on:
  - Service and treatment options
  - Organizational structure/Facility ownership
  - Licensing, certification and accreditation
  - Funding
  - Patient demographics

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### How you could help?

- Complete the key informant interview in the back of the room
- Respond to our survey
- Disseminate our findings
- Provide feedback

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