



STUDY 2: CASE STUDIES OF SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

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System of Care Definition

A system of care¹ (SOC) is an adaptive network of structures, processes, and relationships grounded in system of care values and principles that effectively provides children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families with access to and availability of services and supports across administrative and funding boundaries.

Elements of the SOC Definition	Shared Understanding of Concepts
An adaptive	Incorporating action, reaction, and learning over time (Holland, 1995)
network	A set of linkages across people, organizations or communities (Capra, 2002; Schensul, LeCompte, Trotter, Cromley, & Singer, 1999)
of structures,	Specified roles, responsibilities, and authorities that define organizational boundaries and enable an organization to perform its functions (Bolman & Deal, 1997; Plsek, 2003; Theirry, Koopman, & de Gilder, 1998)
processes ,	Methods of carrying out organizational activities often involving sequences or a set of interrelated activities that enable an organization to perform its functions (Bolman & Deal, 1997; Plsek, 2003; Theirry, Koopman, & de Gilder, 1998)
and relationships	Trust-based links creating connectedness across people and organizations (Folke, Hahn, Olsson, & Norberg, 2005)
grounded in SOC values and principles	As defined by Stroul and Friedman (1994) and Hernandez, Worthington, & Davis (2005)
that effectively provides	Data that demonstrate progress toward goals or desired effect (Hernandez & Hodges, 2001; Hodges, Woodbridge, & Huang, 2001)
children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families with	An identified local population of children and youth and their families (CMHS, 2002; Hernandez & Hodges, 2003b)
access to	Ability to enter, navigate, and exit appropriate services and supports as needed (CMHS, 2003, 2004; Farmer et al., 2003)
and	
availability of	Services and supports in sufficient range and capacity (Stroul, Lourie, Goldman, & Katz-Leavy, 1992; U.S. DHHS, 2003)
services and supports	Formal and informal, traditional and non-traditional assistance (Burchard, Bruns, & Burchard, 2002; Hernandez, Worthington & Davis, 2005)
across administrative & funding boundaries	Unrestricted by categorical administrative and funding boundaries (Pires, 2002; President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, 2003; Stroul and Friedman, 1994)

¹ Original System of Care Definition: "A system of care is a comprehensive spectrum of mental health and other necessary services which are organized into a coordinated network to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances and their families." (Stroul & Friedman, 1986).

Study 2: Case Studies of System Implementation

Holistic Approaches to Studying Community-Based Systems of Care

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