

# VALUES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER'S SYSTEM OF CARE

## CORE VALUES

1. The Mental Health Center's system of care should be person centered and family focused, with the needs of the individual and family dictating the types and mix of services provided.
2. The Mental Health Center's system of care should be community based, with the focus of services as well as management and decision-making responsibility resting at the community level.
3. The Mental Health Center's system of care should be culturally competent, with agencies, programs, and services that are responsive to the cultural, racial, and ethnic differences of the populations they serve.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### *Persons with or at risk for mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse problems and their families...*

...should have access to a community-based, comprehensive array of services that address their physical, emotional, social, and educational needs.

...should receive individualized services in accordance with the unique needs and potentials of each person and guided by an individualized service plan.

...should receive services within the least restrictive environment that is clinically appropriate.

...should be full participants in all aspects of the planning and delivery of services.

...should receive services that are integrated, with linkages with all stakeholders between human services agencies and programs and mechanisms for planning, developing, and coordinating services.

...should be provided with case management/care coordination or similar mechanisms to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that they can move through the system of services in accordance with their changing needs.

...should receive early identification and intervention as promoted by the system of care in order to enhance the likelihood of positive, measurable outcomes.

...should be afforded smooth transition and aftercare planning to meet their needs, either directly or by referral, as appropriate.

...should have rights protected, and effective advocacy efforts promoted.

...should be encouraged and supported to participate in community-based activities of their choice.

