

Indicator #40: Are you working closely with other community health and mental health providers and programs to improve cross-referrals, enhance linkages, and coordinate and expand resources?



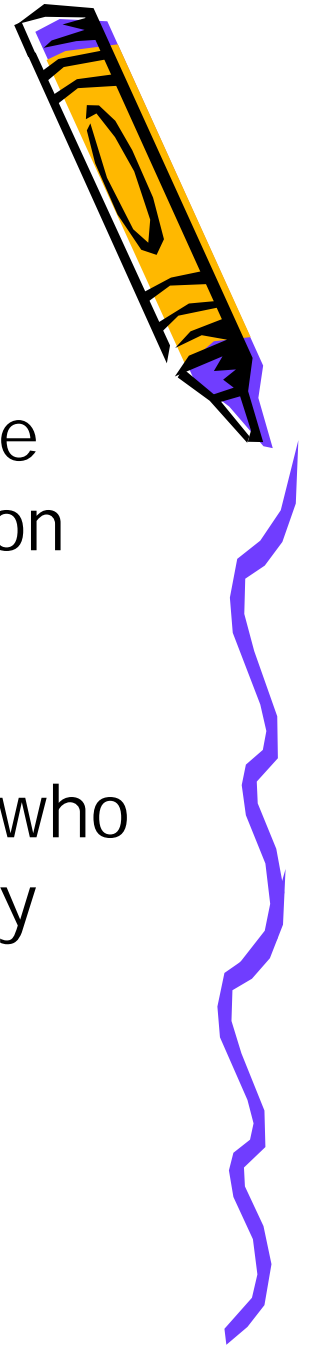
Background

- Research shows that that coordinated systems of care for children and adolescents contribute to improved functioning for youth with emotional disturbances.
- A system of care incorporates a broad array of services and supports that are organized into a coordinated, collaborative network.
- Local public and private organizations work in teams with family advocates to plan and implement a tailored set of services for each individual child's physical, emotional, social, educational, and family needs.



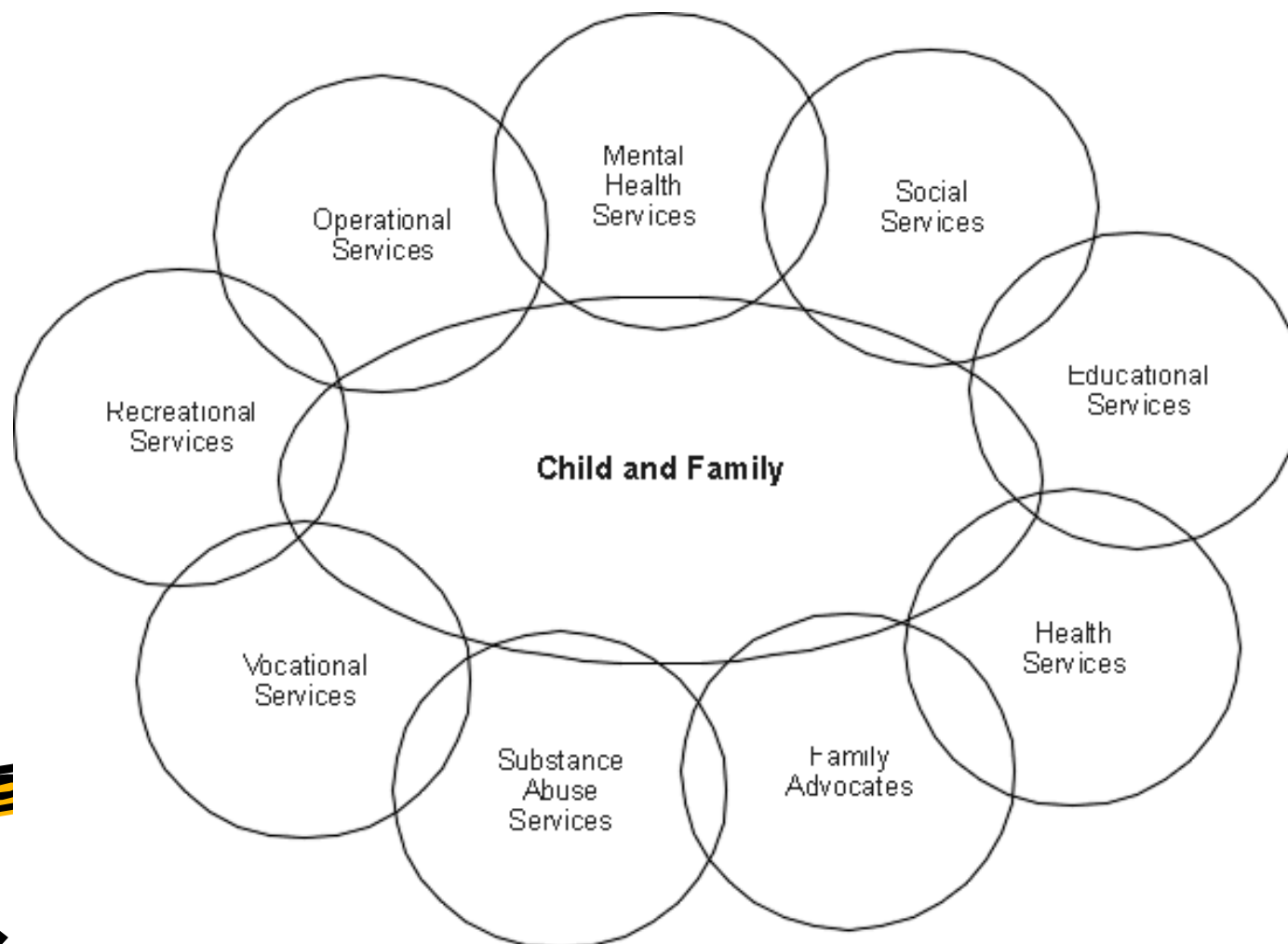
Interagency Steering Committee

- Form an interagency steering committee to improve coordination and collaboration efforts across multiple levels.
- The steering committee should include people from the collaborating agencies who can quickly resolve issues of interagency cooperation and access to services.



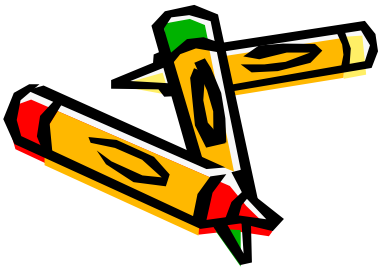
Components of Systems of Care

(excerpted from SAMSHA, 2003)



Menu of Suggested Activities

- Present the idea of a system of care to your advisory board.
- Begin small scale collaborations with organizations outside of the school.
- Form an interagency steering committee.



HELPFUL HINTS!

- Present the idea of a system of care to your advisory board.
 - Begin by contacting your local mental health agency to find out what resources exist in your area for systems of care.
 - Give your advisory board copies of the free handouts from SAMSHA.
 - Ask for help in forming new collaborations.



HELPFUL HINTS!

- Begin small scale collaborations with organizations outside of the school.
 - Choose one student per week who is involved in an outside agency and try to make contact with that agency.
 - Choose one student per week that could use additional help and make a referral to a new community collaborator.



HELPFUL HINTS!

- Form an interagency steering committee.
 - Work on streamlining paperwork, designing universal forms wherever possible.
 - Implement a management information system that ties together agencies.
 - Localize service planning and management.
 - Identify one person to be identified as each youth's or family's case manager.



Web Resources

- SAMSHA, Systems of Care: Children and Adolescents With Serious Emotional Disturbances
(<http://www.mentalhealth.org/publications/allpubs/CA-0014/default.asp>)
- SAMSHA, Family Guide to Systems of Care for Children with Mental Health Needs (in English and Spanish)
(<http://www.mentalhealth.org/publications/allpubs/Ca-0029/default.asp>)



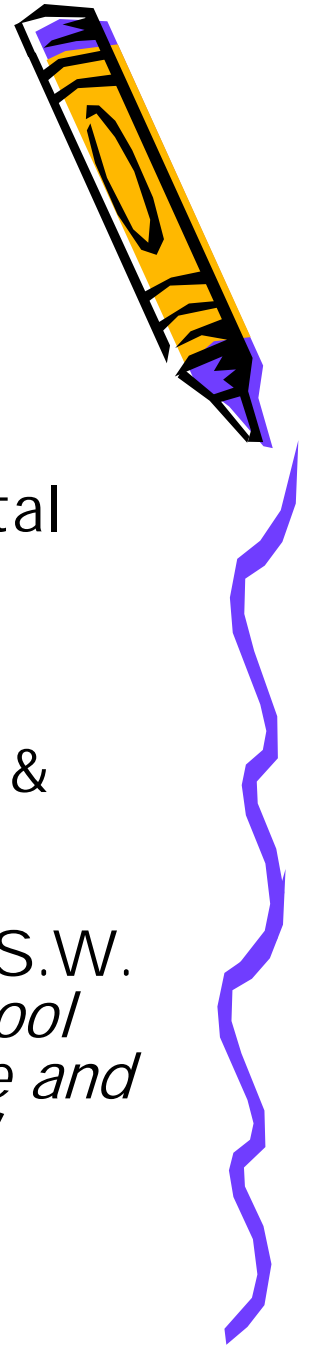
Web Resources

- National Assembly of National Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations, The Community Collaboration Manual - provides step by step guidelines for the initial formation of a collaboration. It discusses how collaborations may maintain momentum and involve youth and businesses. The manual also identifies the role of the median contemporary collaborations. 1991/76pp \$13.95



Background References

- England, M.J., & Cole, R.F. (1992). Building systems of care for youth with serious mental illness. *Hospital and Community Psychiatry*, 43(6), 630-633.
- Lever, N.A., Adelsheim, S., Prodense, C., Christodulu, K.V., Ambrose, M.G., Schlitt, J. & Weist, M.D. (2002). System, agency and stakeholder collaboration to advance mental health programs in schools. In M.D. Weist, S.W. Evans & N.A. Lever (Eds.), *Handbook of School Mental Health Programs: Advancing Practice and Research*. New York, NY: Kluwer Academic/ Plenum Publishers.



Background References

- Vinson, N.B. (2001). The system-of-care model: Implementation in twenty-seven communities. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, (9)1, 30-43.
- Weist, M.D., Lowie, J.A., Flaherty, L.T & Pruitt, D. (2001). Collaboration among the education, mental health, and public health systems to promote youth mental health. *Psychiatric Services Journal*, 52, 1348-1351.

