Minnesota System of Care for Children’s Mental Health

Minnesota System of Care is an innovative and effective nationally recognized approach designed to improve children’s mental health supports and services that provides a framework for the future. Within a System of Care, services are youth guided, family driven, culturally responsive and community-based.

System of Care organizes children’s mental health supports and services into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and meets cultural and linguistic needs to help keep kids in their homes, schools and communities. This is achieved through trainings, piloting community-based mental health supports and services, and policy changes.

System of Care Approach in MN

- Provide effective children and youth community-based mental health services and supports
- Deliver trainings focused on family and youth engagement and cultural responsiveness
- Reduce health care disparities using National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS Standards)
- Create sustainability plan and strategies
- Expand skilled workforce
- Social marketing and public education

Pilot Supports and Services

- WrapMN (Minnesota’s High-Fidelity Wraparound)
- Collaborative Intensive Bridging
- School-Based Diversion
- Telepresence
- Family Reunification Therapy
- Family Partnership Project
Additional Key Work

The proposed System of Care Integrated Data System for Children’s Mental Health would exchange data across Minnesota state agencies so families, professionals and policy makers can make more informed decisions.

Next Steps

Build sustainability plans and strategies with grantees and key partners as the System of Care grant expires September 2021.

Goals

- Improve outcomes for Minnesota’s children, youth and families experiencing complex mental health needs by creating a mental health system at the state, local and frontline practice levels that is family driven, youth guided and culturally responsive
- Build local and state leadership to coordinate across jurisdictions to reform policy, reduce health care disparities, develop a data-informed system and plan for sustainability

Results to Date

53 policy changes have been made due to SOC grant (Jan. 2019 – June 2020)
731 children connected to pilot services and supports through SOC grant (Jan. 2019 – June 2020)
1,229 professionals and family members have participated in SOC sponsored events: (June 2019 – June 2020)
  • SOC values trainings (Culturally Responsive, Youth Engagement and Family Engagement)
  • Workforce training (Collaborative Intensive Bridging Services and WrapMN)
  • SOC conferences and learning communities

Alignment with Children’s Cabinet Priorities

- Children’s Cabinet initiatives support System of Care in Minnesota through multi-agency collaboration, coordinating resources for families, and providing leadership within the state enterprise and external stakeholders. Through the Mental Health and Well-being Action Team, System of Care services and supports will be aligned with cross-agency programs and interventions.
- DHS System of Care team will work with the Children’s Cabinet to develop a state specific resource for families to connect with state information and resources. One of the components currently underway includes improving data-sharing practices by streamlining data exchanges between state information systems that children and families interact with to receive state services.

Minnesota System of Care Partners

Select counties and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota | Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health | University of Minnesota Institute for Translational Research in Children’s Mental Health and Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare | Wilder Research | Minnesota Departments of Human Services, Corrections, Education and Health | Minnesota’s Children’s Cabinet