

Overview of NYC's Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) Citywide Oversight Committee (COC)

Mission: The purpose of the COC is to provide a vehicle for cross-system collaboration between New York City and New York State child serving agencies, Borough Based Councils (BBCs), family members and youth for the purpose of improving the social and emotional well being of children and youth through implementation of the New York State Children's Plan within New York City's system of care. The COC works to advance the core values and principles of the system of care within NYC. Issues that cannot be resolved at the borough level are forwarded to the COC for discussion and resolution or referral to the appropriate agency or forum for further consideration. The COC may also refer issues to the BBCs for consideration and action.

Membership: The COC is comprised of representatives from the city and state child-serving agencies; family members or caregivers of children and youth with serious emotional or behavioral challenges who are currently being served or have been served by the System of Care; youth with emotional or behavioral challenges who are or have been served by the System of Care; co-chairs of the BBCs; and parent leadership representation and child advocacy organizations.

Leadership: The COC is lead by 5 co-chairs that include: one family member, one youth, one senior representative from the NYC DOHMH, one senior representative from the NYS OMH and one senior representative of either the Mayor's Office or other city or state agencies represented on the COC.

Accomplishments:

- **Cross-system collaboration** where COC members meet monthly to address identified system level issues and support the implementation of the System of Care core values and principles within their agency or organization.
- **Family and youth serve as full partners** to share the experiences and needs of families and youth served by the System of Care, and facilitate problem solving at the program and policy levels.
- **Training** provided by the Children's Coordinated Services Initiative on Family Network Model of Care Coordination and family engagement to clinicians, case managers, family advocates, supervisors and other staff from child serving systems in NYC including, mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and education.
- **Workgroups** developed to address annual priorities identified by the BBCs and the COC. In 2009 the mentoring workgroup released a report recommending actions to improve and increase accessibility of mentoring services for youth with mental health challenges. This resulted in working with a consultant to create a specialized mentoring curriculum to improve training for program supervisors and mentors to better meet the needs of youth with behavioral and mental health challenges.
- **Creation of workgroups as a result of a NYC Children's Plan Roundtable Discussion** where participants developed NYC specific cross-system action plans in alignment with the NYS Children's Plan focused on two priority populations, children 0-5 years old and transition age youth (TAY) 16-25 years old. As a result 5 workgroups were identified to carry out the following goals by January 2011: determining skill set and support for youth to transition into adulthood; strengthening housing for TAY; improving access to information about TAY services; establishing a cross system youth voice; and addressing early childhood trauma.