



WISCONSIN SYSTEM OF CARE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A SYSTEM OF CARE?

A spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children and youth with, or at-risk of developing, mental health challenges and their families that is organized into a coordinated network, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and addresses their cultural and linguistic needs in order to help them function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life. (Stroul, B., Blau, G., and Friedman, R., 2010)

VISION

- Transform the children’s mental health system to better meet the needs of children and families
- Develop a seamless comprehensive children’s behavioral health system that makes sense

GOAL

Work to move the Wisconsin Systems of Care framework forward is focused on infusing the Coordinated Services Teams (CST) Initiatives framework and best practices for working with children and families within the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program.

There are three areas to the plan to meet Wisconsin’s vision.

- **Policy/philosophy**—System of care values and principles are embedded in all child-serving systems including, but not limited to, services, supports, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, courts; and clearly communicated with children, youth, and families.
- **Infrastructure**—Child-serving systems are aligned to support seamless access for services and supports to children, youth, and families.
- **Services/supports**—Comprehensive services and supports should be easily accessible, use evidence-based or evidence-informed practices, and be family-driven, youth-guided, culturally humble, trauma-informed, and coordinated.

Important steps towards this process include:

- Promoting and training on system of care values and principles as a core to practice in Wisconsin.
- Reviewing CST/CCS legislation and language for potential barriers.
- Training and developing CST and CCS staff within the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery.
- Developing oversight and advisory committees.
- Collecting a baseline of CST information from counties and tribes.
- Developing guiding documents, frameworks, and suggestion papers for system of care development at a local level.
- Providing training and technical assistance for counties and tribes within Wisconsin to develop and plan for their local systems change.
- Infusing parent and youth voice into local and state level committees.
- Developing a best practice framework for children and families.