



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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**To:** Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs), Executive Directors, Clinical Directors, ValueOptions, NorthSTAR Specialty Provider Networks (SPNs), Local Juvenile Probation Departments and Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

**Date:** December 16, 2013

**Re:** Support for Wraparound Planning and System of Care Expansion

Texas child-serving systems share the goal for children and families with mental health challenges to have access to an array of effective services and supports to remain in their communities. This involves the commitment of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Texas has committed to strengthening local and state systems through a System of Care framework. We would like to take this opportunity to provide background information on efforts to develop system of care communities, new efforts to implement high-fidelity wraparound planning, and how local communities can support these activities.

### Background: System of Care

System of Care refers to an array of effective, community-based services and supports for children and youth with or at risk for 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 to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life. Under a system of care framework, child and youth-serving systems work collaboratively with a shared vision for their community.

Texas has committed to enhancing local systems of care so that children and families experience seamless systems working together to enhance their safety and well-being. For more information on the system of care approach please visit the Texas System of Care website: <http://www.txsystemofcare.org/>

### Wraparound

Efforts to implement high-quality and high-fidelity wraparound across Texas are part of this broader initiative to partner with local communities to achieve an effective system of care. Wraparound is a promising approach that has been shown to reduce the use of residential treatment, psychiatric hospitalization, incarceration, and other out-of-home placements. In many states, mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare, and education have come together to use wraparound to meet the complex needs of children within their systems, reducing overall expenditures.

Wraparound is a team-based process and draws upon the strengths and resources of a committed group of family, friends, professionals, and community members. Strong support teams are formed that can include parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, neighbors, religious leaders, professionals, or others who are connected and might help. Team members focus on the child and family's strengths, not weaknesses, as they craft a single plan of care, accessing the unique array of community-based supports and services the

family needs. The team continues to meet over time to implement this plan, monitor its effectiveness and work towards success.

Wraparound has been implemented in the mental health system in a variety of ways over the years and the term has been used for a number of years; however, DSHS has recently adopted the National Wraparound Initiative's (NWI) model and has invested in training, coaching, and quality management processes. Providers from child-serving systems should expect to be asked to be involved in team meetings and assist children and families in developing a shared plan of care. To find out more about the new model of wraparound being implemented please take some time to view the videos available on the Texas System of Care website: <http://www.txsystemofcare.org/wraparound/web-based-wraparound-training/>

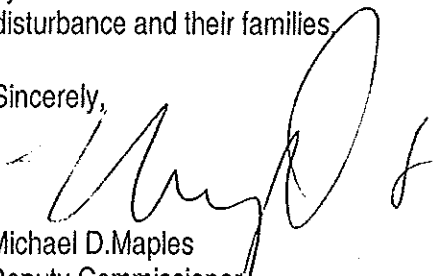
#### Local Action Steps

To achieve these system reforms, state and local partners must work together and commit to local planning, coordination, and participation. Below are some actions that we encourage you to take in your local community in order to help advance the implementation of these two valuable initiatives:


- Refer youth at risk of out-of-home placement or returning to the community to wraparound services within the LMHA;
- Participate in opportunities to be trained as a wraparound facilitator or supervisor;
- Participate in wraparound team meetings for children or youth who you serve/supervise;
- Consider using wraparound planning as an option for youth and families referred to your local Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG);
- Schedule regular meetings with individuals from child-serving agencies in your area to conduct local planning and explore opportunities for collaboration across your organizations;
- Engage youth and families in local planning, evaluation, and policy discussions; and
- Keep up-to-date on system of care expansion activities and training opportunities and provide input into the initiative by through email ([info@txsystemofcare.org](mailto:info@txsystemofcare.org)) and/or by subscribing to the Texas System of Care email blast (use this link and click "subscribe" on the upper left corner <http://eepurl.com/lbVZ5>).

We would like to encourage you to take time in the coming months to identify steps your organization can take to help advance the implementation of these initiatives. With collaboration, communication, and a commitment to Texas children, youth, and families, we have the opportunity to transform the child-serving system into one that will better meet the unique needs of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Maples  
Deputy Commissioner  
Department of State Health Services



Mike Griffiths  
Executive Director  
Texas Juvenile Justice Department