

# The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative

## July 2004 – June 2005 Annual Report

### CCSI Statewide Partners:

**Family and Youth  
Representatives**

**Office of Mental Health  
(OMH)**

**State Education Department  
(SED)**

**Office of Children and Family  
Services (OCFS)**

**Council on Children and  
Families (CCF)**

**Division of Probation and  
Correctional Alternatives  
(DPCA)**

**Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services  
(OASAS)**

**Office of Mental Retardation  
and Developmental Disabilities  
(OMRDD)**

**Department of Health (DOH)**

**NYS Commission on Quality  
of Care and Advocacy for  
Persons with Disabilities  
(CQCAPD)**

**CCSI has a three-tiered  
structure that emphasizes  
family participation at every  
level:**

**Tier I – Community Level  
Team that provides individual  
strength-based plans of action  
for children at risk.**

**Tier II – County Level  
Interagency leadership team  
made up of local government,  
service system, and family  
representatives.**

**Tier III – Statewide Level  
Team of agency, family and  
youth representatives that  
work to identify systems level  
solutions to meet locally  
identified needs.**

The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) is a cross-systems process for serving children with special emotional and behavioral service needs that builds upon legislation enacted in 2002. The process utilizes strength-based approaches, consistent and meaningful family involvement, individualized planning, and encourages creative, flexible decision making and funding strategies. CCSI is designed to infuse local decision making processes with a set of core principles for helping children and their families who have needs that cross administrative and service delivery lines. By working within a collaborative framework such as CCSI, agencies, organizations, and families can combine their respective skills and services to produce far greater benefits than when acting on their own.

CCSI has grown from 56 counties and boroughs across the state in 2004, to 60 counties and boroughs in 2005.

Highlights of this report:

**The CCSI Overview** – A summary of the principles and processes of the Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (page 2).

**Cross-Systems Recommendations** – A core function of the CCSI Tier III Committee is to develop solutions and strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families who require services and support from multiple systems (page 3).

**Training and Technical Assistance to Counties** – Components of the Committee's role in providing support to local Initiatives on a statewide, regional, and county-specific basis (page 5).

**CCSI Expansion** – The CCSI Tier III Committee has added additional members and is providing start-up funding to four additional counties in 2005 (page 5).

**Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports** – The CCSI's role in supporting this national school-based initiative in NYS (page 6).

**Future Direction** – Goals of the Tier III committee for the coming year (page 6).

## **The CCSI Overview:**

The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) is an interagency initiative that supports localities in creating systems of care so that children who are at risk of residential placement remain at home with their families and in their communities whenever possible. The CCSI promotes a set of core principles at all levels of government, across a broad range of service agencies, and throughout the service planning and delivery process. These principles guide a process of cooperative interagency planning that develops and delivers individualized services to children and their families.

Through 2004, 56 Counties and Boroughs received start-up funding to create their own locally integrated systems. In 2005, an additional four counties received start-up funding.

The CCSI philosophy leads to coordinated systems of care that:

### **Develop and plan for one child and family at a time**

Service plans are developed around individual needs, not program categories.

### **Provide supports and services in family and community settings**

Reduce over-reliance on restrictive and expensive out-of-home placements.

### **Develop parent/professional partnerships**

Parents are involved at all levels of service planning and delivery.

### **Use strength-based approaches**

Focus on child and family strengths as opposed to problems or pathology.

### **Deliver services that are culturally competent**

Recognize that a family's cultural background might affect the determination of appropriate services and incorporate dialogues, materials, and processes that respect the family's culture.

### **Provide care that is unconditional**

Embrace the idea that services are provided to all in need regardless of how, when, or where they enter the child and family serving system.

The CCSI is unique in its ability to work across and within a broad range of child and family service systems. There is no prescribed programmatic component to the Initiative beyond the formation of local teams that develop individualized service plans and collaborate on system-wide coordination and improvement.

Localities are encouraged to develop approaches that will best serve their target populations and that complement existing or anticipated efforts to improve services to children and their families.

The CCSI is not a service “program” in the traditional sense of the word; rather, the CCSI provides a structure and flexibility to promote locally designed interagency processes that lead to successful programs for the most vulnerable of children and their families. While the CCSI builds upon the unique strengths of each local service system, there are common features that can be found in participating counties across the state.

1. The CCSI uses an interagency structure to meet the needs of children and their families who require services and supports from multiple service systems.

The CCSI incorporates a three-tiered approach:

- Tier I is a local service planning team that accepts referrals and develops individualized, strength-based plans of action for children and their families.
  - Tier II includes county government and service agency leaders, school officials, and parents to address local and state-level solutions to cross-systems issues. New York City’s CCSI also includes a city-wide team of officials, family, and systems representatives.
  - Tier III is a statewide board made up of family representatives and officials from eight state agencies. Tier III meets regularly to review and implement systems change at the state level.
2. The CCSI uses a family focused and strength-based approach in working with families across all service systems.
  3. The CCSI involves families as partners at all points in the process.
  4. The CCSI facilitates access to services based on need, not availability.

## **CCSI’s 2004 - 2005 Accomplishments**

### **Cross-Systems Recommendations:**

A hallmark of the Committee’s work in 2004 was the development of a comprehensive set of recommendations for improving services to children who have cross-systems needs. The full set of recommendations can be found in Appendix B of this report. In 2005, the Committee is pleased to report progress on several of its recommendations, through its own internal efforts, through the efforts of its member agencies and organizations, and by participating in related cross-systems interagency workgroups and projects.

CCSI advances the principles and practice of cross-systems collaboration at all levels of government and service delivery. The Interagency Work Group on Out-of-State Residential Placements, chaired by the Council on Children and Families, is a prime example of multi-systems collaboration that several CCSI Tier III members and family representatives participated in.

On August 2, 2005, Governor Pataki signed Chapter 392 of the Laws of 2005, establishing the Out-of-State Placement Committee within the Council on Children and Families. This legislation is a direct outcome of the Report of the Interagency Work Group on Out-of-State Residential Placements (June 2005). The Law was effective October 31, 2005. Formal agency members of the Committee include the Office of Children and Family Services, State Education Department, Department of Health, Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. In addition to the seven legislatively mandated members, the Director of the Division of the Budget and the Chair of the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities were invited to participate. The Work Group's final report submitted to the Governor June 1, 2005 includes recommendations that are consistent with, or reflect directly, the cross-systems recommendations of the Tier III Committee, including:

- Strengthening local systems of care and integrated service delivery models;
- Improving screening and assessment practices across systems;
- Exploring residential options for children requiring support from multiple services systems; and
- Strengthening the oversight and decision-making processes so that residential placements occur in the least restrictive setting, close to the child's home, school, and community, and for the appropriate period of time.

The Out-of-State Placement Committee is responsible for improving the monitoring of out-of-state residential placements, promoting coordination across all levels of government, and establishing a process for identifying and considering in-state resources prior to making an out-of-state placement. As this new Committee moves forward in its work, it will be critical that there is ongoing coordination with CCSI, especially as it relates to strengthening the process of identifying services for children and youth and providing care for children in the least restrictive setting.

New York State has also enjoyed success in increasing access to Home and Community Based Waiver Services. This CCSI cross-systems recommendation recognizes the benefit in providing a flexible array of services and supports to children and their families at the home and community level. In addition to an increase in the number of mental health waiver slots for children, New York State has created a new, collaborative funding mechanism to support over 200 new waiver slots for children to access through local departments of social services.

The Tier III Committee has also developed multi-agency proposed programmatic initiatives, and has expanded CCSI's technical assistance and training presence at the county and regional levels. The Committee's training and technical assistance efforts are highlighted in the following section.

## **Training and Technical Assistance to Counties:**

A series of five two-day training sessions were held across the state in April through June of 2005. In addition to providing an interactive CCSI/Systems of Care training venue, state-level programmatic updates, out-of-state residential placement issues and regional family and youth support organizations resources were presented at the sessions. All sessions were co-trained by parent/family members.

Four hundred, fifty-nine (459) people attended the trainings, with counties being able to assemble cross-systems teams of service systems administrators, direct care staff, parents, family support organizations, and other children's services stakeholders. By providing training at the regional level, CCSI Tier III was able to increase the number and diversity of county-level attendees than in prior statewide level events.

The 2005 regional training sessions provided both counties and the Tier III Committee with a better perspective on the strengths and challenges facing our child and family-serving systems. Feedback from the trainings will guide future technical support activities.

In response to both the CCSI legislation and its role of supporting local initiatives, the Tier III committee has developed a set of guidelines and technical assistance resources to help counties create and sustain successful integrated systems of care. These resources are available on the newly launched CCSI website at: [www.ccf.state.ny.us/ccsi.html](http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/ccsi.html). The Tier III Committee also maintains a CCSI e-mail List Serve, with over 400 subscribers, to share information and opportunities with colleagues from across the state. Information and sign-up information on the List Serve can be found at: [http://mail.ftnys.org/mailman/listinfo/ccsi\\_ftnys.org](http://mail.ftnys.org/mailman/listinfo/ccsi_ftnys.org)

CCSI-related support is also offered through three regional technical assistance teams (RTATs) that consist of field staff members from participating CCSI agencies and family organizations. RTATs regularly meet with counties and other stakeholders to assist in addressing systems barriers, attend Tier II meetings, provide and/or host training sessions, and answer questions from local CCSIs.

## **Start-up Counties and Expanded Tier III Membership**

In 2004, the Tier III Committee issued an RFP to fund counties that had not received funding in any prior CCSI expansion. Start-up funding has been made available in 2005 to the four successful applicant counties (Hamilton, Ontario, Orleans, and Otsego). Start-up funding is generally used for flexible funding, to support parent partners, and to facilitate increased family participation in the individualized services planning and delivery process.

The Tier III Committee also has three new members in 2005 – an additional parent advocate (bringing Tier III parent membership to 33%), a statewide youth advocate, and a representative from the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

## **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**

One ongoing priority for the CCSI Tier III Committee is to increase the Initiative's involvement with the education system. PBIS is a nationally developed and supported school-wide program that teaches and promotes positive behavior in all students by creating and maintaining safe learning environments where teachers can educate and students can learn.

PBIS is based on:

- Team-based planning and problem-solving,
- Classroom management and behaviorally-based interventions,
- Functional Behavioral Assessment/Behavioral Intervention Planning (FBA/BIP),
- Comprehensive plans for individual students with intensive needs,
- Active participation of families, students and teachers,
- Integration with mental health and other community supports.

CCSI, as a member of the Statewide PBIS Leadership Team, provides collaborative oversight and guidance so that schools implementing PBIS have ready access to high quality training and technical assistance.

PBIS and CCSI are mutually supportive, systems-level initiatives that emphasize prevention and cross-systems collaboration. For children and families with higher levels of need, PBIS also incorporates a “wraparound” approach to service planning and delivery – a core element of the CCSI Tier I process. The Tier III Committee will work to strengthen the linkages between schools and CCSI to deliver the most appropriate and effective set of services and supports to children and families in their schools, homes, and communities.

### **Future Directions: July 2005 – June 2006**

The future activities of the Tier III Committee will continue to focus on its core mission of keeping children in their homes and with their families; assuring that out-of-home placements, if they occur, are in the appropriate service systems and in the least restrictive setting; and that children return to their homes, schools, and communities as soon as possible. As in the past, these efforts will include family members and representatives across all child and family service systems at the state and local levels.

Priority areas include the development and delivery of training and technical assistance related to building and sustaining local systems of care, including a family advocacy training curriculum. As with all of the work the Tier III Committee undertakes, the activities outlined above will be conducted in adherence with the guiding principles of CCSI: that services and supports are based on the specific needs of the child and family, that families are involved at all levels of service delivery and planning, and that relationships with children and families are respectful of the unique cultural and social backgrounds of everyone involved.