

The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative

July 2005 – June 2006 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 complex 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 state, regional, and 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.

Highlights of this report:

The CCSI Mission – The Mission Statement of the Coordinated Children's Services Initiative, including an overview of its core values and processes (Page 2).

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 4).

Regional Technical Assistance Team Development – Continued collaboration and support for regionally based, multi-systems and family teams (Page 5).

Cross-Systems Projects – CCSI Tier III Committee Members participate in many cross-systems efforts to develop solutions and strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families who require services and support from multiple systems (Page 5).

Future Direction – Goals of the Tier III committee for the coming year (Page 7).

The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI)

Mission Statement

The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) is a partnership among service systems, families, and youth that supports localities in creating systems of care so children with cross-systems needs remain at home with their families and in their schools and communities. Children with cross-systems needs have, or are at increased risk for having, complex, co-occurring unmet medical, mental health, developmental, substance abuse, educational, social, vocational, or other needs that necessitate collaboration among multiple service delivery systems, families, and youth to create a comprehensive, coordinated system of care.

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 integrated planning that develops and delivers individualized services to children and their families. The process utilizes strength-based, culturally competent approaches to identify and meet a child and family's needs, consistent and meaningful family and youth involvement, individualized planning, and encourages creative, flexible decision making and funding strategies.

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 Family/professional partnerships

Families, including Youth, 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 service systems.

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. CCSI promotes state, regional, and local collaboration 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 family representatives 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 and youth representatives and officials from nine 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 2005 - 2006 Accomplishments

Training and Technical Assistance to Counties:

In response to both the CCSI enabling statute and its ongoing role of supporting local initiatives, the Tier III Committee has made a concerted effort in 2005-2006 to focus its efforts and resources on statewide technical assistance and training resources to help counties create and sustain successful integrated systems of care.

CCSI is supporting two major training projects that focus on family partnership and the wraparound process to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

1. CCSI – Family Partner Training Project

The curriculum will include history and background of CCSI, its principles, the role of family partners, advocacy skill-building, strength-based assessments, understanding the child and family service systems, collaboration, support group facilitation, and self-care for the family partner.

Utilizing the CCSI Family Partner Curriculum, family partners will attend interactive training sessions to help prepare them to fulfill their roles. Knowledge and skills will be taught in an environment geared toward the adult learner which will encourage competency and confidence.

With the assistance of the CCSI Regional Technical Assistance Teams, trainees will be identified to participate in the Family Partner Training and efforts will be made to broadly distribute the Family Partner Curriculum to appropriate statewide stakeholders.

Family Partner trainees completing the training will increase their knowledge, skills, and confidence when working with families and system partners to obtain the most appropriate and effective level of care for children with cross-systems needs.

2. Statewide Wraparound Training Project

The core wraparound training curriculum will cover the history, background, and framework of CCSI as well as the ten principles and four phases of the wraparound process as defined by the National Wraparound Initiative (www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi). 300 trainees will be included in the five sites selected for Phase One of the Project; the first cohort of training sites consists of three individual counties and two multi-county consortia.

The Wraparound Training Project also includes the development of the CCSI Training Institute (Train-the-Trainer Phase). Trainer pairs will be solicited for “nomination” from the participants of the CCSI Regional Technical Assistance Teams and must include at least one parent/family member or youth co-trainer.

The Training Project's evaluation component will demonstrate the extent to which relevant stakeholders were involved and whether trainees gained knowledge and skills from the wraparound training sessions. The evaluation consists of:

- **Process Evaluation** - The process evaluation will collect information about whether wraparound is delivered as intended to the targeted recipients.
- **Outcome Evaluation** - The outcome evaluation will measure changes in youth and family functioning, restrictiveness of placement, and youth, family and provider satisfaction over time.
- **Program Impact Evaluation** - A comparison group study will determine if participation in the wraparound process results in improvements in relevant outcomes over time.

CCSI Regional Technical Assistance Teams (RTATs)

Support for localities is also offered through Regional Technical Assistance Teams (RTATs) that consist of field staff representatives from participating CCSI agencies, family organizations/advocates, and county-level staff. RTATs regularly meet with counties and other stakeholders to assist in addressing systems barriers, share best practices, attend Tier II meetings, provide and/or host training sessions, and answer questions and provide requested support from local CCSI representatives.

To elevate and coordinate the important work of the RTATs, Tier III will enhance its support for the Teams and will convene joint planning sessions to identify process and structural enhancements related to regional technical assistance efforts. Areas for consideration include: strategies for improved state, regional, and local cross-systems communication; involving family- and youth-run organizations at the RTAT level; topics for county-focused training sessions; creating consistent regional team partners statewide; and jointly developing CCSI educational materials for participants both new to and familiar with the Initiative.

Cross-Systems Projects:

CCSI advances the principles and practice of cross-systems collaboration at all levels of government and service delivery. The Out-of-State Placement Committee, chaired by the Council on Children and Families, is a prime example of multi-systems collaboration in which several CCSI Tier III members and family representatives participate.

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 participate. Two family representatives and the CCSI Statewide Director also participate at a workgroup level.

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. An initial annual report was produced in February 2006, which provides an overview of the Committee's work plan (www.ccf.state.ny.us/resources/oosworkgroup.htm). The 2007 annual report will focus on the Committee's accomplishments.

As the Committee continues its work, there is ongoing coordination with CCSI, especially as it relates to the process of identifying services for children and youth and providing care for children in the least restrictive setting.

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 research and evidence-based, nationally developed and supported school-wide program that teaches and promotes positive behavior in all students, creating and maintaining safe learning environments where teachers can educate and students can learn.

PBIS Core Elements:

- Proactive school-wide (Universal) behavioral practices, procedures, and supports
- Active participation of families, students, administrators, teachers and other school staff, and community stakeholders
- Integration with mental health and other community supports
- Classroom management and behaviorally-based interventions
- Functional Behavioral Assessment/Behavioral Intervention Planning (FBA/BIP)
- Use of building-based behavioral and other data in school planning and decision-making

CCSI, as a member of the Statewide PBIS Leadership Team, provides collaborative oversight and guidance to ensure that all schools implementing PBIS have ready access to high quality training and technical assistance. PBIS Specialists working out of the seven PBIS Regional Technical Assistance Centers (TAC) and PBIS Family Coordinators work collaboratively to provide training and technical assistance to school teams and other school, family and community stakeholders. The pending PBIS Statewide Technical Center (TAC) will coordinate all levels of PBIS training and technical assistance to ensure all PBIS schools meet uniform standards of

development, and promote New York State's unique strategy for engaging families as partners at all levels of PBIS implementation and evaluation. Currently, over 250 schools across the State are implementing PBIS to promote positive behavior, reduce incidences of problem behavior and improve the school climate for all students, staff, and families.

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 be working 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 2006 – June 2007

The future activities of the Tier III Committee will continue to focus on its core mission of supporting children in their homes and with their families; assuring that out-of-home placements, if they occur, are in the appropriate service systems; that services and supports are delivered 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 successful implementation and continuation of the Family Partner and Wraparound Training Projects, and continued support of and collaboration with the Regional Technical Assistance Teams.

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.