

Glossary of Terms

assessment -

comprehensive analysis of data gathered from multiple sources that identifies strengths, resources and needs; leads to and informs service planning

Abuse Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy –

example of an evidence-based therapy for use with children involved, or at risk for involvement, in the child welfare system; developed to resolve posttraumatic stress disorder and depressive and anxiety symptoms, as well as to address underlying distortions about self-blame, safety, the trustworthiness of others and the world; the treatment also fits sexual abuse and other traumatic experiences into a broader context of children's lives so that their primary identity is not that of a victim

action plan –

an objective or goal to be reached by a desired end point in development; it is usually endeavored to be reached in a defined time by setting deadlines

benefit design –

term borrowed from managed care pertaining to the types of services and supports that are allowable within systems of care (or insurance coverage) and under which conditions

bottom-up approach –

individual of a system is recognized first and then linked together with other individuals to form a larger subsystem which is linked together with other subsystems until larger networks formed; also referred to as a "seed" model

capitation rate –

a fixed amount per eligible user of services paid to managed care entities, providers, or lead agencies

case rates –

a fixed rate per actual user of services, based typically on the service recipient's meeting a certain service or diagnostic profile

categorical –

a specifically defined division within a classification system

communication mechanism –

a method used for the exchanging of ideas, thoughts, opinions, and feelings so that stakeholders know what is going on, and rumors and misinformation can be minimized

community level –

partnerships with families, youth, and natural helping networks to achieve community support

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children –

an initiative of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation that focuses on changing child protective services through family-centered practice supported by neighborhood networks

conflict resolution –

the process of attempting to dissolve a dispute; usually occurs through listening to and trying to meet each side's needs so both sides are satisfied with results

constituency building –

the gathering of individuals, stakeholders, or organizations which are bound by shared structures, goals or loyalty

core value –

constant, fundamental beliefs that construct the values by which one lives his/her life

cultural competence –

the capacity to value diversity, conduct self assessment, manage the dynamics of difference, acquire and institutionalize cultural knowledge and adapt to diversity and the cultural contexts of the communities served; having a defined set of values and principles and demonstrating behaviors, attitudes, policies and structures that enable one to work effectively cross-culturally

culture –

a broad concept that reflects an integrated pattern of a wide range of beliefs, practices and attitudes that make up an individual

day treatment –

type of program used in treatment of mental illness and substance abuse; may include special education, counseling, parent training, vocational training, skill building, crisis intervention, and recreational therapy; typically lasts at least 4 hours a day; day treatment programs work in conjunction with mental health, recreation, and education organizations

deficit-based –

an orientation to the lack or impairment of a functional capacity

didactic –

designed or intended to teach or instruct

disenfranchised –

disadvantaged, underprivileged, lacking in necessities, advantage, and/or opportunity; especially of economic or social necessities

disproportionality –

the state of not corresponding in size or degree or extent; an absence of proper proportion

early intervention programs –

a preventive treatment for children of school age or younger and their families, who are discovered to have, or be at risk of developing, a handicapping condition or other special need that may affect their development; also, programs that seek to identify any populations at risk and provide supports before problems become serious or crises arise

eco-map -

a tool to assist screening, assessment, evaluation and service planning processes; supports a systems approach, family-centered practice and development of a culturally appropriate and reflective plan of services and supports

empowerment paradigm –

stresses empowerment as the method to solving problems (especially poverty), and expanding opportunities, allows fundamental changes to take place

ethical standards –

moral and value reasoning with which an organization, person, or professional operates

evaluation –

closer, more intensive study of a particular or suspected issue; provides data to the assessment process; discipline-specific.

evidence-based –

shown effectiveness through carefully controlled, random clinical trials

expert model –

reliance on expert opinion to determine appropriate provision of services and supports

Family Finding –

use of Internet search engines to locate extended family members for children and youth in foster care

Family Group Conferencing –

a decision-making process involving families, public agencies and community participants that is structured so that families involved in child welfare can exercise a meaningful voice over their affairs; facilitated by a trained, “independent” coordinator

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) –

“a non-adversarial process in which families, in partnership with child welfare and other community resources, develop plans and make decisions to address issues of safety, permanence and well-being....reflecting the principles of family-centered practice, FGDM is strengths-oriented, culturally adapted, and community-based.” (National Resource Center on Organizational Improvement)

family/youth peer mentors –

relationship development between two individuals who have shared life experiences to increase social skills and confidence

family-driven –

families have a primary decision-making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community, State, Tribe and nation that includes: choosing supports, services and providers; setting goals; designing and implementing programs; monitoring outcomes; partnering in funding decisions; and determining the effectiveness of all efforts to promote the well-being of children and youth

fee-for-service –

a payment mechanism in which providers receive a fee for each service actually provided, such as an in-home visit or counseling session

frontline practice level –

the level at which health and human services workers actually interact with children, youth and families in directly providing services and supports

Functional Family Therapy –

an evidence-based and systematic family-based model for working with at risk adolescents and their families

geographic disparities –

the state of being unequal or different based on where one lives

governance –

decision making and oversight at a policy level that has legitimacy, authority and accountability

group home –

a dwelling which has been adapted to house a number of un-related persons who share a common characteristic

Head Start –

the federal program that promotes the economic and social well-being of families and children from three to five years of age

independent living skills and supports –

help provided to youth in transition and young adults designed to increase self-reliance and self-confidence and build skills to function on one's own

in-kind support –

assistance or aid given with commodities or work, but not with money

intensive care management –

working with only a few families who have children with multiple, complex needs, where the care manager is closely involved with the family and youth and with the array of providers and natural helping networks to ensure provision of the appropriate services and supports; the care manager often controls flexible resources and has the authority to convene child and family teams

intensive home-based service –

clinical services and supports provided in the home often with the intent to prevent removal of a child from the home

life domains –

spheres of activity that constitute an individual's perceptions of quality of life; examples include: physical functioning, spirituality, occupational/role functioning, future orientation, social functioning, sexuality/intimacy, emotional functioning, health concerns, family well-being and financial satisfaction

linguistic competence –

the capacity of an organization and its personnel to communicate effectively and convey information in a manner that is easily understood by diverse audiences, including persons of limited English proficiency, those who have low literacy skills or are not literate, and individuals with disabilities

locus of management accountability –

the concept of lodging responsibility with one entity for populations of children, youth and families that are involved in multiple entities

Master's Level Care Managers –

those managers who have received a Master's level degree

mediation –

an attempt to bring about a peaceful settlement or compromise between disputants through the objective intervention of a neutral party

Mobile Response and Stabilization Services –

aimed at expeditiously ensuring the safety of child, youth, and adults and their family/care-givers that are facing a crisis situation in order to prevent the disruption of current living arrangements

Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MDTFC) –

serves as an alternative to residential treatment and to deter subsequent incarceration among a high risk population; the goal of MDTFC is to provide at-risk youth with the skills, resources, supervision and structure necessary to reduce delinquency or other behavioral problems in place of more pro-social and adaptive behaviors; the program relies on the involvement of trained foster families, therapists, and case managers to provide youth with the skills and structure to modify behavior; the ultimate goal of MDTFC is to return youth to their biological or adoptive families, who are also involved throughout the process.

Multisystemic Therapy –

an intensive family- and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behavior in youth

natural helpers –

may be family members, youth, representatives from culturally diverse neighborhoods, and others who can provide a more "normalized" and enduring form of support to families and youth than can formal services; examples of what natural helpers can provide include: skill building, emotional support; resource acquisition and concrete help.

non-categorical –

an approach that cannot be categorized into a specific division

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) –

an empirically-supported treatment for young children with behavioral challenges that places emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns

political strategy –

a manner of positioning one's goals so as to attain and/or retain one's standing

population focus –

centers on a population or populations of children and families who cross or at risk of crossing all or many systems and engages all systems in a reform agenda

practice-based evidence –

an approach which has not yet had the benefit of scientific research but which experientially has demonstrated effective outcomes

residential treatment –

a structured out-of-home placement utilized for treating an individual's behavioral/emotional problems by providing 24-hour care with counseling, therapy and trained staff

respite services –

service which enables caregivers to take needed breaks from caregiving while knowing their loved one is being cared for

screening –

identifies individuals at high risk and links them to appropriate assessments

self-assessment –

process in which the respondent determines his or her level of knowledge and skills, strengths and needs

service coordination –

the assisting of families with basic to intermediate needs to coordinate services, where the service coordinator has other responsibilities or is responsible for a relatively large number of families

service planning –

an individualized, collaborative decision-making process for determining services and supports, timeframes and goals, drawing on screening, assessment and evaluation data

siloed approach –

a methodology that cannot easily integrate with any other because of multiple versions of the same data which violate the idea of a single version of the truth

stakeholder –

a person or organization with a legitimate interest in a given situation, action or enterprise

strategic mindset –

a shared vision based on common values, shared outcomes, community mapping, understanding strengths and needs and the various roles played by child-serving systems and how they can be changed, the major financing streams across systems and how they can be mobilized, and connecting related reforms

strategic orientation –

a focus on the “big picture,” an attention to defining the future direction of an enterprise, and in using this definition, to direct and guide the efforts of all in the enterprise

structure –

something arranged in a definite pattern of organization

system management –

has to do with day-to-day decision making within an organization

system reform –

a type of alteration that takes a population focus - focuses on a population or populations of children and families who cross or at risk of crossing all or many systems and engages all systems in a reform agenda

systems of care (SOC) –

a broad, flexible array of services and supports for a defined population(s) that is organized into a coordinated network, integrates service planning and management across multiple levels, is culturally and linguistically competent, builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth at service delivery, management and policy levels, and has supportive management and policy infrastructure

talk therapy –

also referred to as psychotherapy as a general term for a way of treating mental and emotional disorders by talking about one's condition with a mental health professional; typically conducted in an office setting

targeted services –

service aimed at a particular group of individuals

team-driven –

not single agency or single provider driven

Time Dollar Bank –

a strategy built on the concept of reciprocity, where there is no monetary fee-for-services, yet all participants "pay" for services by agreeing to provide volunteer hours to support the agency

top-down approach –

a system theory with which an overview of a system or an organization is first formulated, specifying but not detailing any first-level subsystems; a scheme imposed from the top

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy -

a model of psychotherapy that combines trauma-sensitive interventions with cognitive behavioral therapy; addresses the unique biopsychosocial needs of children with post traumatic stress disorder and other problems related to traumatic life experiences

triage –

a system for allocating scarce resources; it provides the maximum resources to individuals of highest priority, and few or no resources to individuals of lowest priority; derived from practices used to prevent medical systems from being overwhelmed when there are many sick or injured.

universal services –

geared to all children and includes prevention and early intervention services

utilization management (UM) –

has to do with the system of care's paying attention to how services are being used by children and families, both at an individual level and at a system's level, how much service is being used, what services are being used, the cost of those services, the effect those services are having on those using them, and whether children and families are satisfied with what they are using

wraparound approach –

a process for planning and implementing services and supports that is based upon individualized, strength-based, needs-driven planning and service delivery

youth-guided

encompasses the principles of: youth have rights; youth are utilized as resources; youth have an equal voice and are engaged in developing and sustaining the policies and systems that serve and support them; youth are active partners in creating their individual support plans; youth have access to information that is pertinent; youth are valued as experts in system transformation; youths' strengths and interests are focused on and utilized; adults and youth respect and value youth culture and all forms of diversity; and youth are supported in a way that is developmentally targeted to their individual needs