

2008-2009 State Plan for Services to Children and Youth

1. **Develop and expand behavioral health services by:**

- Improving mental health services for children through continued support of Systems of Care and the wrap-around model.
- Increasing the OJA's funding for detention centers to provide mental health services for youth.
- Ensuring there are an adequate number of psychiatric beds for residential treatment and acute care to serve the juveniles in Oklahoma who require those levels of care.
- Adding alcohol and mental health treatment facilities for children.
- Increasing funding for treatment contracts with private facilities/DMHSAS to increase CADC providers.
- Increasing Mental Health Providers at Youth Service Organizations
- Increasing funding for community based services and modify Medicaid eligibility standards to make more children and families eligible.
- Developing and expanding mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Increasing funding appropriations for community based behavioral health services.

2. **Develop and ensure the resources for training, recruitment and retention of direct care staff (e.g. juvenile justice workers and child welfare workers) by:**

- Increasing incentives to promote qualified providers including increasing fees-for-services, developing incentives for rural providers, offering licensing tuition assistance and increasing salaries.
- Developing incentives for providers to relocate or provide services in rural areas.
- Developing and ensuring resources for training direct care staff.
- Providing DHS with funding to hire additional child welfare staff to be in compliance with the recommended national standard issued by the Child Welfare League of America.

3. **Improve funding of Children and Youth Services by:**

- Adequately funding services and programs for children, particularly effective programs that experienced funding cuts.
- Increasing funding for services in rural areas.
- Increasing funding for community-based programs in rural areas.

- Provide funding for additional emergency beds for children in order to maintain allowable capacities in DHS operated shelters.
- Increase the number of Crisis Intervention Centers.

4. Increase transportation services to children, youth and families, especially in rural areas by:

- Increasing funding for transportation initiatives, especially in the rural areas.
- Funding local communities to implement comprehensive transportation services, including bus systems, maintenance and auto repair, service tag assistance programs, low interest rate auto loans for low income individuals.

5. Improve services to youth in OJA custody by:

- Providing funding to OJA for new Level E Facilities.
- Providing funding to OJA for a Youthful Offender Facility.
- Downsizing the Lloyd E. Rader Center to a maximum of forty beds.
- Establishing four, forty bed secure treatment facilities strategically located across the state.
- Provide funding to adequately establish the ACT Work Keys program in all three OJA juvenile training centers.
- Ensure the resources for developing and training more foster parents.

6. Help Children and Youth become healthier through:

- Supporting the Strong and Healthy Oklahoma Initiative.
- Increasing the number of teen pregnancy prevention programs.
- Increasing the awareness of the effects of bullying.
- Providing youth opportunities to become actively involved in their communities.
- OCCY will continue to work with all groups including the Joint Forces Initiative who advocate and provide services by creating or appointing families to positions on all state level task forces, advisory boards and committees that make and create policy for the children and youth in Oklahoma who have a disability or other chronic health care condition.
- OCCY will provide leadership for sustaining and extending the interagency, coordination initiatives (i.e. OASIS, Oklahoma Family Network, Sooner Success, Oklahoma Infant Transition Program and Systems of Care. Oklahoma Family Support 360 Center) Currently some statewide and some in limited communities across the state.