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Executive Summary

Community Living Exchange

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Executive Summary: A Series of
Issue Briefs on Strengthening
Systems of Care for
Children and Adolescents with
Severe Emotional Disturbances

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This series of six briefs has been created by the Human Services Research Institute under subcontract to the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy. The briefs have been developed to assist the CMS Real Choice grantees who are focusing on strengthening systems of care for children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances. The topics for the briefs were suggested by the Real Choice grantees. This Executive Summary is brief I, and it describes the components of briefs II – VI.

BRIEF II: ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN: ISSUES & INSTRUMENTS

Brief II is intended to assist states in understanding the complexities of assessing children's needs and the relative strengths of a number of currently available instruments. The brief includes descriptions of the following components:

- Issues related to the use of standardized instruments, including various types of reliability and validity, cultural sensitivity, and measurement bias;
- Issues related to implementing standardized assessment instruments;
- Criteria that should be considered in selecting an instrument or set of instruments;
- The psychometric literature, training requirements, training resources, and implementation issues related to several of the most widely used assessment instruments (The Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS), and The Ohio Youth Problem, Functioning, & Satisfaction Scales Short Form);
- Descriptions of additional instruments that may be of interest but for which the psychometric evidence is not yet well established (The Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII), The Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument v.2 (MAYSI-2), The Hoosier Assurance Plan

**Assessment
of Children:
Issues and
Instruments**

Instrument for Children and Adolescents (HAPI-C), and The Treatment Outcome Package – Child (TOP-C));

- The relative strengths of each of the instruments for different purposes;
- Issues related to implementing an assessment system using standardized instruments; and,
- A list of sources for more information on each of the instruments described and an extensive bibliography.

BRIEF III: THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

Therapeutic Foster Care

Brief III describes the Therapeutic Foster Care model and the evidence supporting it. Component sections include:

- A general description of the model, its history, program characteristics, and examples of TFC programs nationally;
- A summary of the evidence that supports the model including the benefits to children and parents;
- Information on the costs of TFC programs;
- Training requirements;
- A discussion of implementation issues at the state and agency levels; and,
- An extensive list of training materials and other sources of information on the programs described as well as an extensive bibliography.

BRIEF IV: WRAPAROUND SERVICES

Wraparound Services

Brief IV describes the general principles of wraparound as well as the history of the model. Multiple examples of the approach are described.

Component sections of this brief include:

- History of the wraparound model;

- A description of current program models and the populations that they serve;
- A summary of the evidence that supports the wraparound model;
- A discussion of cost data available for the wraparound model;
- Training needs and requirements;
- Available fidelity measures;
- Implementation issues and requirements; and,
- Training and other ancillary materials available, plus an extensive bibliography.

BRIEF V: MAKING THE CASE FOR FLEXIBLE FUNDING

Flexible Funding

Brief V presents an overview of flexible funding as a viable strategy for creating child and family-centered services. Components of the brief include:

- History and overview of the program model;
- Description of some models of flexible funding used by various states;
- Summary of the evidence supporting the model;
- Information on financing flexible funding;
- Implementation issues and strategies for states, programs, and families; and,
- A bibliography of additional resources on flexible funding.

BRIEF VI: MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY

Multisystemic Therapy

Brief VI describes Multisystemic Therapy (MST), a leading evidence-based intervention used with children who have serious emotional disturbances. Components of the brief include:

- History and overview of the MST model;

- MST treatment principles;
- Evidence supporting the practice;
- Policy and implementation issues;
- Fiscal issues;
- Training requirements;
- Resources on training materials available and bibliography on MST.