



Center for Behavioral Health Studies

New Promising Practices in the Care of Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances

The Centers for Mental Health Services recently announced three new volumes of Promising Practices for families, communities and caregivers to help build new systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

These "Promising Practices" were developed through site visits, focus groups, interviews and analysis of program evaluation reports. The new volumes, which are part of the *Promising Practices in Children's Mental Health* publication series, include:

- **Wraparound: Stories from the Field:** "Wraparound" is an increasingly recognized approach for planning and individualizing mental health services for children and their families. To advance understanding of the 10 elements of the Wraparound approach, this volume presents the stories of six families who have received these services. The final chapter summarizes the lessons learned from the stories.
- **Learning from Families:** The role families play is critical to the success of community-based care for children who suffer from emotional and behavioral disorders. This volume identifies the key elements that enable families to be fully engaged in the systems of care developed for their children. Among the most crucial of the elements is the partnership built between providers and the families.
- **Promising Practices in Early Childhood Mental Health:** A growing body of research, theory development, and

intervention has shown that the systems of care approach can benefit even the youngest children. This volume identifies principles underlying effective early childhood mental health services and provides strategies to incorporate these principles into community-based care.

"By improving care and services locally, we

can give more of our children the opportunity to participate fully in family and community life," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.



"These guides will help families, communities and caregivers improve the lives of children with severe emotional disturbances.

Dr. Joseph H. Autry, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administrator, stated, "Evaluation of the children's program has shown that the systems of care approach is resulting in improved mental health as well as improved school grades, reduced school absences and trouble with the law". This information is now available to community-based caregivers and families around the country to benefit the 3 to 4 million children living with serious emotional disturbances.

This new information will be highly useful to a wide variety of audiences -- from direct service providers to policy makers to others who are invested in the well being of our nation's children. Rimrock supports the



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concept of “Promising Practices”, which we hope will continue to speed policy changes in the delivery of mental health services to communities. We also hope these monographs will further our efforts to create services in communities where they do not exist. By enhancing existing services delivered to children in their homes and communities, far fewer children will be compelled to leave their own cities, counties and states in order to receive quality mental health care.

All 13 volumes of the *Promising Practices in Children’s Mental Health* may be obtained by calling the Center for Mental Health Services Clearinghouse at 1-800-789-2647, or by clicking on the

“Children’s Campaign” on the Center for Mental Health Services’ web site at www.samhsa.gov/centers/cmhs/content/cmhs_main.html.

The Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families Program provides grants to states, communities, territories, and Indian tribes to improve and expand their system of care to meet the needs of children with serious emotional disturbances and their families. These grants enable communities to develop local systems of care highlighting service collaborations among mental health, child welfare, education, juvenile justice, education and other appropriate services.



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