

## The Coordinated System of Care

### **Overview**

The State of Louisiana is developing a **Coordinated System of Care (CSoC)** for Louisiana's at-risk children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges or co-occurring disorders that are in or at imminent risk of out of home placement. Louisiana leaders acknowledge that the needs of these children and their families are not adequately being met as the current system is fragmented, not well coordinated, at many times inadequate and is often difficult to navigate. Further, the current system does not allow for state departments to take a coordinated approach to deliver the necessary behavioral health services. This too often results in Louisiana's children with the highest needs being detained in out of home settings.

The CSoC is an initiative of Governor Bobby Jindal and is being led by executives of the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Education, the Office of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). Implementation workgroups, led by agency staff and inclusive of parents and other stakeholders (advocates, providers and community leaders), were formed to conduct the detailed implementation planning and CSoC start-up activities. As a result of these efforts the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP), a comprehensive system for behavioral health services for individuals of all ages, was designed. The LBHP includes the CSoC as one population of focus. The CSoC will offer an array of Medicaid State Plan and Home and Community-Based Waiver services to:

- All eligible children and youth in need of mental health and substance abuse care
- At-risk children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges or co-occurring disorders in, or at imminent risk of, institutionalization )

Goals for CSoC include:

- Reduction in the number of targeted children and youth in detention and residential settings;
- Reduction of the state's cost of providing services by leveraging Medicaid and other funding sources; and
- Improving the overall outcomes for these children and their caregivers.

Louisiana's CSoC:

- Incorporates a broad, flexible array of effective services and supports for a defined population;
- Is organized into a coordinated network;
- Integrates care planning and management across multiple levels;
- Is culturally and linguistically competent;
- Builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth at the service delivery, management and policy levels; and
- Has supportive policy and management infrastructure.

The Louisiana Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) is led by the CSoC Governance Board, as established by Executive Order BJ 2011 -5. The Governance Board is comprised of executives of the Department of

Children & Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Education (DOE), the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), a representative from the Governor's Office and family, youth and advocate representatives. This Board sets the policy for the governance for the CSoC.

A large component of the CSoC initiative is to support the development of regional Wraparound Agencies (WAA) and Family Support Organizations statewide. An initial Request for Applications was let on March 11, 2011 and as of June 13, 2011 four Act 1225 regions were selected as Phase I implementers (please see Act 1225 Regional map). These regions include 2, 7, 8, and 9. More specific information regarding Louisiana's approach to Wraparound and Family Support can be found in the Coordinated System of Care Community Application.

### ***Phase I Implementation Cohort***

The following is a brief overview of the initial regions engaged in WAA and FSO implementation.

#### **Region 2**

Description of Region: Region 2 of Louisiana is comprised of the seven parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana with a total population of 653,386. The Region is a racially and culturally diverse area with 56.6% Caucasian, 40.5% African American and 3% Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic and American Indian according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2009. Based on readiness and capacity to initiate a CSoC, it has been determined that the first parishes that will implement in January 2012 include Ascension, East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge. The implementation timeline for the other parishes is Pointe Coupee (Apr 2012), Iberville (July 2012), East Feliciana (Oct.2012) and West Feliciana (Dec. 2012). The phase in approach will allow time to work out logistics and processes while building staffing capacity. It will also facilitate time to increase services to meet the needs of children and families accessing CSoC services throughout the region. It is expected that all parishes within Region 2 will be operational by December 2012.

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Selected Wraparound Agency: NHS Pennsylvania dba: NHS Baton Rouge

Selected Family Support Organization: Families Helping Families of GBR, Inc.

#### **Region 7**

Description of Region: Region 7 is comprised of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and Winn with a total population of 301,972. The Region is a racially and culturally

diverse area with approximately 72% Caucasian, 24% African American and 4% Hispanic or Asian. The majority of the partnership for this region comes from Rapides Parish. There has been a commitment to assist with implementation from Avoyelles, Grant, LaSalle and Vernon Parishes. Several of the providers (Mental Health Rehabilitation providers, MST providers, VOA and Family Counseling Agency) are involved in this process and have been providing services in the outlying parishes for years. A commitment to expand the service array and include these parishes in the CSoc has been expressed throughout this process.

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Selected Wraparound Agency: Bayou Behavioral Services working in partnership with Eckerd

Selected Family Support Organization: Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

**Region 8**

Description of Region: Region 8 communities consist of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jackson, Natchitoches, Red River Parish, Sabine and Webster. Members of these communities include Children and Youth Services Planning Boards which have a broad representation; including School systems, Juvenile Courts, private and non-profit agencies, family service organizations as well as private and public providers of services and programs for children, youth and families within the region. The initial design proposes implementation in the one urban and four rural parishes in the first year and implementation of the remaining parishes in proceeding years. Both urban and rural cultural, socioeconomic, organizational and structural characteristics have been integrated into this design.

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Selected Wraparound Agency: Choices, Inc.

Selected Family Support Organization: Project Celebration, Inc.

**Region 9**

Description of Region: Region 9 is comprised of Ouachita, Morehouse, Lincoln, Union, Richland, Madison, Franklin, Tensas, East and West Carroll and Caldwell Parishes. The region is predominately rural with Monroe (Ouachita Parish) being the only urban area in the region. This application seeks to develop the Coordinated Systems of Care model in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes before expanding to the more rural areas of the region. This decision was based on Ouachita and Morehouse having the most capacity in terms of potential service array and also a working Youth Services Planning Board with the capacity to serve as the convener of this application. This decision was made with input from key stakeholders in the rural parishes as they fully support the expansion of the CSoC into their communities in the near future.

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Selected Wraparound Agency: Wraparound Services of Northeast Louisiana

Selected Family Support Organization: Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana

**Jefferson Parish**Description of Region:

For the purpose of this initiative, Jefferson Parish stands as a single region. The parish is bisected by the Mississippi River that separates East and West Jefferson. The parish's largest community is Metairie, an unincorporated area that comprises almost all of the northern portion of the Parish, called East Jefferson. Smaller unincorporated areas include River Ridge and Jefferson. East Jefferson cities include Kenner and Harahan. The southern portion of the parish, known as West Jefferson, is the largest community and consists of several unincorporated areas including Terrytown, Harvey, Marrero, Avondale, Waggaman, Bridge City, and parts of Westwego. The cities of Gretna, Westwego, Jean-Lafitte and Grand Isle are in West Jefferson. These communities are represented in the Jefferson Parish initiative through their involvement with the Children and Youth Planning Board and through the agencies that serve Jefferson Parish.

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Selected Wraparound Agency: NHS Human Services

Selected Family Support Organization: Families Helping Families of Jefferson