



MICHIGAN JUVENILE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

A project of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
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Systems Integration: Treating the Whole Child

The majority of youth entering the juvenile justice system have complicated needs - mental health concerns, difficulties in school, substance abuse, and occasionally abuse and neglect. Yet, historically, the child welfare, mental health, education, and juvenile justice systems have operated separately, driven by different statutory mandates, funding allocations, and service plans that discourage collaboration.

- Seventy-five percent of new delinquency cases in Wayne County were diagnosed with some mental health issue. Twenty-six percent were assessed as having Serious Emotional Disturbance.ⁱ
- Over seventy-percent of youth entering the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility self-report using illegal substances and alcohol.ⁱⁱ
- Youth with learning disabilities are more than twice as likely to commit a delinquency offense as their non-disabled peers.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Child abuse and neglect increases the risk of arrest as a juvenile by 55% and increases the risk of being arrested for a violent crime as a juvenile by 96%.^{iv}

System of Care

The strong correlations between child maltreatment, mental health, educational difficulty, and juvenile delinquency establish the necessity of more coordinated and integrated service delivery by the child welfare, mental health, educational and juvenile justice systems. Without addressing the underlying causes of delinquency, youth face greater risk of negative life outcomes, including chronic mental health issues, substance abuse, lower educational attainment, lower rates of employment; and increased risk of adult offending.

A System of Care is a comprehensive spectrum of services which are organized into a coordinated network to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbance. A System of Care is dedicated to improving outcomes for the whole family as well as reducing costs.

Michigan has two sites receiving federal assistance to develop a System of Care:

- Ingham County IMPACT System of Care (www.impactssystemofcare.org)
- Kalamazoo Wraps (<http://www.kalamazoowraps.com/>)

System of Care Values

Family driven

Youth-guided

Accessible and high quality services

Culturally and linguistically competent services

Individualized care

Collaborative care

A System of Care embraces, serves, and supports children with serious emotional disorder and their families so children are safe and successful with their families and in their community.

Strategies	Goals	Outcomes
<p>Family and youth involvement</p> <p>Develop services and supports; integrating policies and procedures that are outcome-driven</p> <p>Training, technical assistance, and workforce development</p>	<p>Families will receive seamless, integrated treatments and a comprehensive array of community-based and culturally and linguistically appropriate intervention from a variety of service agencies, based upon family needs.</p> <p>Each child, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or background will live with his/ her family at the best level of functioning capable for that child.</p>	<p>Maximize functioning of children with severe emotional disturbance and their families</p> <p>Reduced need for out-of-home placement</p>
<p>Individual service planning</p> <p>Quality improvement and assurance</p>	<p>All children with serious emotional disorders who are at high risks for out-of-home placement and have issues sufficient for multi-system involvement will receive comprehensive, coordinated, interagency service plans.</p>	<p>Increased participation of the family and youth in the development of the system</p> <p>Expand family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally and linguistically competent system of care for children</p>
<p>Aligning funding streams</p> <p>Communications and social marketing</p>	<p>Every family, regardless of formation or agency of initial contact, will obtain resources necessary to provide for their child with severe emotional disturbance.</p> <p>The community will be educated about and support the local systems of care.</p>	<p>Efficient use of resources</p> <p>Increased community knowledge of the system of care/ decreased stigma</p>

ⁱ Wayne County Department of Children & Family Services, Comprehensive Statistical Report, FY 2008.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Brier, N. (1989) "The Relationship between learning disability and delinquency." *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, Vol. 22, No. 9, 546-553. From the Michigan Learning Disability Association.

^{iv} *Understanding Child Maltreatment & Juvenile Delinquency: From Research to Effective Program, Practice, and Systemic Solutions*. Janet Wiig and Cathy Spatz Widom, with John A. Tuell. CWLA Press, New York. 2003.

**Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration: A Framework for Improved Outcomes*. Janet Wiig with John A. Tuell. CWLA Press, New York. 2004.