

The Guiding Principles of Coordinated Family Services

Family-Centered

Services are based on specific needs of the child and family, not on a particular categorical service or intervention model. Services are based on the strengths that are unique to each family and their support network.

Strength-Based

Planning is based on the assumption that each person is unique and possesses strengths. Strengths can be found in attitudes, values, skills, preferences, and dreams. Strengths are expected to emerge, be clarified and change over time.

Community-Based

Whenever possible, services are provided in the community where the child and family live. More restrictive or institutional care should be accessed for brief periods only when no other community alternative is available.

Culturally-Competent

Family team *Plans of Care* are culturally sensitive and tailored to the culture and values of the individual family.

Unconditional

If a specific service or support is not meeting the child or family's needs, the family team does not "give up" or end. Rather, individualized services and supports are changed to meet children and family needs.

Outcome-Oriented

Expectations are measurable, based on the life of the individual child and family, and changed as the needs of the child and family change. Progress is monitored, and each team member participates in defining success.