

Coordinated Services Team (CST) Initiative

Our Vision: To implement a practice change and system transformation in Wisconsin by having a strength-based coordinated system of care, driven by a shared set of core values, that is reflected and measured in the way we interact with and deliver supports and services for families who are involved in multiple systems including substance abuse, mental health, child welfare, workforce development, correctional, and education services.

When we provide services in a family-centered, strength-based way, we not only achieve better individual, family and community outcomes, but reduce duplication, cross purposes, and many of the crises that rob us of time and limited resources. It is imperative that we must use our resources as effectively as possible to reduce long-term risks and more expensive alternatives. Our shared values include: an emphasis on a family-centered approach; family involvement throughout the process; building resources on natural and community supports; a strength-based approach; a safe environment for all; providing unconditional care; collaborating across systems; using a team approach across agencies; being gender/age/and culturally responsive; promoting self-sufficiency; a focus on education and employment where appropriate; a belief in growth, learning and recovery; and being oriented to outcomes.

Currently funding for 26 counties and 1 tribe comes from a combination of Federal and State sources including the Substance Abuse Block Grant, the Mental Health Block Grant, Division of Children and Family Services and Hospital Diversion savings. Each site is required to develop a substantial amount of matching funds as well as a clear plan for sustainability to ensure continuation after funding ends. The goal is to provide funding for three to five years. Each site is required to establish a local collaborative group of agencies and organizations including system representatives from substance abuse, mental health, child welfare, workforce development, juvenile justice and education, as well as consumers. The collaborative group often referred to as the "Coordinating Committee" is responsible for establishing policies and procedures that promote the values of the CST initiative and system change necessary to have a significantly positive impact on the lives of children and families in Wisconsin. The current list of CST sites includes:

Counties: Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Crawford, Douglas, Eau Claire, Grant, Green Lake, Iron, Jefferson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marquette, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Richland, Sauk, Sheboygan, St Croix, Waupaca, and Washburn

Tribe: Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

Family/Consumer Role

The family role is clearly articulated in the CST core values. Families/consumers have been an active force behind significant growth in system change resulting in improved access to needed services for children and families across the state.

- Families are active members on state and local committees developed to establish policies and procedures and monitor progress
- Families are active and essential members on individual family teams
- Support is provided to initiatives ensuring that barriers encountered by families such as timing of meetings, child care, transportation and training, are being resolved to ensure meaningful involvement

Role of Team Members

The goal for team membership is to have a balance of natural (informal) support people such as relatives, friends and neighbors and; service providers such as a therapist, teacher, and social worker. To qualify for team involvement, individuals should:

- Have a role in the lives of the child and/or family
- Be supportive of the child and family
- Be supported for membership by the parent
- Be committed to the process (includes regular attendance at meetings, participation in decisions, and involvement in the plan of care)

Phases of Team Involvement

Assessment & Planning

- Complete *Assessment Summary of Strengths & Needs*
- Develop *Individualized Plan of Care*
- Develop *Crisis Response Plans* for home, school & community

Ongoing Monitoring

- Implementation of the Plan of Care, including ongoing support and monitoring

Transition & Closure

- The family has *knowledge* of and *access* to services and a *voice* in decisions that are made about their child and family
- Team develops a *Transition Plan*

Project Administration

Project Administration is being accomplished by a team consisting of state staff, county and community providers, consumers and advocates.

Training, Coaching and Technical Assistance

Training and technical assistance, specific to site and/or regional needs, is conducted by a cadre of individuals addressing several issues for consumers and service providers including but not limited to: service coordination, team facilitation, advocacy, MA targeted case management, evaluation, and collaborating with multiple systems (e.g. juvenile justice, W-2, AODA, mental health, special education, and child welfare systems). Scholarships are also available for consumers and providers to attend statewide trainings such as the Annual Crisis Conference, and Children Come First Conference.

For additional information contact:

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