

OKLAHOMA STATE PLAN FOR COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH SERVICES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this State Plan is to provide a framework for the advancement and continuation of services provided to children and youth in the State of Oklahoma. It should be noted that while the Plan typically defines the service population as children and youth, the partners of various state agencies recognize that families and significant others are an integral part of effective programs and services.

The May 2006 passage into law of HB 2999 emphasized the legislature's expectations of a state and local community partnership by creating the Division of Community-based Youth Services within the State Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA). The Division of Community-based Youth Services (CBYSD) has primary responsibility for facilitating efforts relating to the delivery of prevention, early intervention and treatment services for children statewide. The requirements for this designation were also defined in the legislation.

As the lead agency, the Office of Juvenile Affairs enlisted assistance from a collaborative group of stakeholders consisting of representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS), the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services (OAYS), the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, and the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy.

Historically, the development of the significant partnership between the Office of Juvenile Affairs, local Youth Services Agencies, and the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services has resulted in a statewide system of services benefiting children, juveniles, and their families, as well as the child welfare (CWS) and juvenile justice systems in Oklahoma.

This initial State Plan for Youth Services is not intended to limit the scope of services provided by Youth Services Agencies. Rather, the Plan is intended to be an adaptive document that will be modified annually. The vision for this Plan is to be systemic in nature, providing informative useful data, establishing goals and objectives to enhance service delivery, and to be used as a starting point for establishing a framework for future development and refinement of the partnership.

HISTORY

As a result of the National Council of Crime and Delinquency's study and recommendations, a national emphasis on delinquency by President Johnson's Blue Ribbon Committee and the availability of federal grant money, many changes were made in Oklahoma's approach to juvenile problems. In 1969 the Juvenile Code (Title X) was re-codified to bring all laws related to children into one statute. The first Youth Service Agencies were funded by the Oklahoma Crime Commission and local matching funds in late 1969 and early 1970. The Community-based Youth Services Model Program was recommended by the Office of Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention and endorsed by the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee of the Oklahoma Crime Commission. The Oklahoma Crime Commission awarded start-up grants to non-profit community organizations to provide youth services throughout the state. Community-based Youth Service Agencies were born out of local need to provide a variety of services in all communities statewide. The services provided at that time included: outreach, shelter, counseling and other services identified by local communities.

The Oklahoma Association of Youth Services was incorporated in 1975 to support statewide advocacy for children and youth and continued funding for Youth Service programs, as well as to provide training and technical assistance to all member agencies

On October 1, 1975 the Supreme Court of Oklahoma and the Department of Institutions, Social and Rehabilitative Services (DISRS, now referred to as the Department of Human Services or DHS) entered into an agreement that enacted the statewide Juvenile Justice System.

Senate Joint Resolution 13 (SJR 13), passed by the First Session of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature and signed by Governor David Boren on June 2, 1975, directed DISRS and the judiciary to enter into this agreement. The purpose of this agreement was to:

1. Provide for the provision of intake, probation and parole services for the district courts in every county except those counties with duly constituted juvenile bureaus;
2. Maintain a Uniform Juvenile Statewide Court Reporting System;
3. Establish uniform standards, policies, practices and procedures;
4. Employ and/or assign necessary staff sufficient to carry out provisions of the agreement; and
5. Contract with private nonprofit or public agencies now in existence or hereafter created.

In 1980, the Legislature appropriated a line item in the Department of Human Services budget of \$2.1 million for Youth Service Agencies.

On June 3, 1994 the Governor signed into law the Oklahoma Juvenile Reform Act (H.B. 2640, Okla. Session. Laws 1994, Ch.290) that created an agency separate from DHS that would be responsible for juvenile justice effective July 1, 1995. That newly created agency is the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA).

Community-based Youth Services funding and operations were also transferred to OJA at that time. Also, the Office of Juvenile Affairs and Department of Human Services agreed that designated Youth Service Agency funds would be utilized to serve all children.

Services were to be available for neglected (DHS/CWS), delinquent (OJA) and any at-risk community children and youth with problems. In 2006 Youth Services agencies had a combined budget for Community-based programs that exceeded twenty million dollars.

Currently there are forty-two (42) Designated Community-based Youth Service agencies. These agencies provide a wide variety of services and programs across Oklahoma's seventy-seven counties to include twenty-four emergency children shelters located throughout the State. A wide variety of prevention services are offered in each catchment area. Listed below are the Designated Community-based Youth Service Agencies, the location of their home office, and catchment area. The local Youth Service Agency boards and the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services recommend the primary catchment areas based upon local needs and available resources.

Community-based Youth Service Agencies:

City	Youth Services Agency	Catchment Area
Ada	Area Youth Services Inc.	Coal and Ponotoc Counties
Altus	Southwestern Youth Services Inc.	Harmon, Jackson, and Tillman Counties
Alva	Northwest Family Services Inc.	Alfalfa and Woods Counties
Ardmore	Community Children's Shelter & Family Services	Carter and Love Counties
Bartlesville	Youth & Family Services of Washington Co.	Nowata and Washington Counties
Chickasha	Southwest Youth & Family Services Inc.	Caddo and Grady Counties
Choctaw	Tri-City Youth and Family Center	Choctaw/Nicoma Park, Harrah, Jones and Luther School Districts in Oklahoma County
Claremore	Rogers County Youth Services Inc.	Rogers County
Clinton	Committee of Concern Inc.	Custer, Dewey and Roger Mills Counties
Duncan	Youth Services for Stephens Co. Inc.	Cotton, Jefferson, and Stephens Counties
Durant	Youth Services of Bryan Co. Inc.	Bryan County
Edmond	Edmond Family Counseling Inc.	Edmond and Deer Creek School Districts in Oklahoma County
El Reno	Youth & Family Services Inc. of Canadian Co.	Blaine, Canadian and Kingfisher Counties
Enid	Youth Services of N. Central Oklahoma	Garfield, Grant and Major Counties

City	Youth Service Agency	Catchment Area
Guthrie	Logan County Youth & Family Services Inc.	Logan County
Hugo	Choctaw/Pushmataha County Youth Services	Choctaw and Pushmataha Counties
Idabel	Kiamichi Youth Services Inc.	McCurtain County
Lawton	Marie Detty Youth & Family Service Center	Comanche County
McAlester	Citizens Advisory Committee - Pittsburg County	Latimer, McIntosh and Pittsburg Counties
Midwest City	Mid-Del Youth & Family Center Inc.	Mid-Del and Crutch School Districts in Oklahoma County
Moore	Moore Youth and Family Services Inc.	Cleveland County North of Franklin Road
Muskogee	Muskogee County Council of Youth	Muskogee and Wagoner County
Norman	Crossroads Youth & Family Services Inc.	Cleveland County South of Franklin Road
Oklahoma City	Youth Services for Oklahoma County Inc.	Oklahoma City, Crooked Oak, Millwood, Bethany, Oakdale, Putnam City and Western Heights School Districts
Oklahoma City	Effective Transitions Inc.	Oklahoma County – targeted CARS referrals
Okmulgee	Okmulgee-Okfuskee County Youth Services	Okmulgee and Okfuskee Counties
Pawhuska	Youth Services of Osage County	Osage County
Ponca City	Northern OK Youth Services Center & Shelter	Kay, Noble and Pawnee Counties
Poteau	LeFlore County Youth Services Inc.	Haskell and LeFlore Counties
Purcell	McClain-Garvin County Youth & Family Center	McClain and Garvin Counties
Sallisaw	People Inc. of Sequoyah County	Adair and Sequoyah Counties
Sapulpa	Youth Services of Creek County Inc.	Creek County
Shawnee	Youth and Family Resource Center Inc.	Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties
Stillwater	Payne County Youth Services Inc.	Payne County
Tahlequah	Cherokee Nation	Cherokee County
Tishomingo	Counseling Inc.	Atoka, Johnston, Marshall and Murray Counties

City	Youth Service Agency	Catchment Area
Tulsa	Street School Inc.	Tulsa- Alternative School (Students referred from Tulsa County public schools) and related services
Tulsa	Youth Services of Tulsa, Inc.	Tulsa
Vinita	ROCMND Area Youth Services	Craig, Delaware, Mayes and Ottawa Counties
Wewoka	Youth & Family Services - Hughes & Seminole County	Seminole and Hughes Counties
Woodward	Western Plains Youth & Family Service. Inc.	Beaver, Cimarron, Ellis, Harper, Texas, and Woodward Counties

VISION

The vision of the State Plan is to enhance and maintain a comprehensive system of quality prevention, early intervention and treatment services to improve the health and well being of all children, youth and families in Oklahoma.

MISSION

The State Plan's mission is to enhance and maintain a comprehensive and culturally competent system of community-based youth service agencies available to at-risk children, youth, families and significant others throughout the state in an effort to prevent and intervene in real life issues that may contribute to involvement by the child or youth in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems.

VALUES

The Office of Juvenile Affairs and the Youth Service Agencies will continue to develop a streamlined and coordinated system for the delivery of prevention, early intervention and treatment services for children and youth. This system shall incorporate the following values:

- Support an environment in which children and their families are emotionally and physically healthy and connected to an engaged and supportive community.
- Services and supports are provided in the best interest of the child to ensure that all of the child's and family's needs are being met.
- Provide services and supports in the most appropriate and least restrictive environment and in the home community of the child, youth and family.
- Honor diverse cultural values within communities. Programs must be culturally appropriate and must reflect sensitivity to ethnicity, gender, education and geography.
- Promote individual responsibility and strengths through the enhancement of resiliency, protective factors and developmental assets; enhance community responsibility through societal commitment to the reduction of risk factors; and, create an environment where children and youth can thrive.
- Reduce disparities leading to negative outcomes among groups most at risk.
- To the extent possible, assure that programs have research-based principles as their foundation.
- Remain flexible and open to new ideas and community initiatives.
- Support a child, youth and family focus in program design.
- Encourage the development of delivery systems that ensure availability of services throughout the state.
- Maintain state and local prevention, early intervention and treatment partnerships that foster the health and well being of Oklahoma children and youth.

OKLAHOMA PROFILE OF AT-RISK INDICATORS AND SERVICE NEEDS

Will include the following:

Child Neglect and Abuse

Juvenile At-Risk

Youth Services Referrals

There are additional data that is currently embargoed, in that we are awaiting the public release of certain data.

CORE SERVICES

To assist in better defining services for youth and families in the State, HB 2999 included a menu of services that may be provided by youth service agencies. This list was not intended to be limiting in scope and is listed here to allow the reader to grasp the depth of services that are currently available to the majority of youth across the State.

“Core community-based” means the following community-based facilities, programs or services provided through contract with the Office of Juvenile Affairs as provided in 10 O. S. §7302-3.6a as amended by HB 2999.

- **screening, evaluation and assessment** which includes a face-to-face screening and evaluation to establish problem identification and to determine the risk level of a child or adolescent and may result in clinical diagnosis or diagnostic impression,
- **treatment planning** which includes preparation of an individualized treatment plan which is usually done as part of the screening, evaluation and assessment,
- **treatment plan reviewing** which includes a comprehensive review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the treatment plan,
- **individual counseling** which includes face-to-face, one-on-one interaction between a counselor and a juvenile to promote emotional or psychological change to alleviate the issues, problems, and difficulties that led to a referral, including ongoing assessment of the status and response of the juvenile to treatment as well as psycho-educational intervention,
- **group counseling** which includes a method of treating a group of individuals using the interaction between a counselor and two or more juveniles and/or parents or guardians to promote positive emotional or behavioral change, not including social skills development or daily living skills,
- **family counseling** which includes a face-to-face interaction between a counselor and the family of the juvenile to facilitate emotional, psychological or behavior changes and promote successful communication and understanding,
- **crisis intervention counseling** which includes unanticipated, unscheduled face-to-face emergency intervention provided by a licensed level or qualified staff with immediate access to a licensed provider to resolve immediate, overwhelming problems that severely impair the ability of the juvenile to function or maintain in the community,
- **crisis intervention telephone support** which includes supportive telephone assistance provided by a licensed level provider or qualified staff with immediate access to a licensed provider to resolve immediate, overwhelming problems that severely impair the ability of the juvenile to function or maintain in the community,

- **case management** which includes planned linkage, advocacy and referral assistance provided in partnership with a client to support that client in self-sufficiency and community tenure,
- **case management and home-based services** which includes that part of case management services dedicated to travel for the purpose of linkage, advocacy and referral assistance and travel to provide counseling and support services to families of children as needed to support specific youth and families in self-sufficiency and community tenure,
- **individual rehabilitative treatment** which includes face-to-face service provided one-on-one by qualified staff to maintain or develop skills necessary to perform activities of daily living and successful integration into community life, including educational and supportive services regarding independent living, self-care, social skills regarding development, lifestyle changes and recovery principles and practices,
- **group rehabilitative treatment** which includes face-to-face group services provided by qualified staff to maintain or develop skills necessary to perform activities of daily living and successful integration into community life, including educational and supportive services regarding independent living, self-care, social skills regarding development, lifestyle changes and recovery principles and practices,
- **community-based prevention services** which include services delivered in an individual or group setting by a qualified provider designed to meet the services needs of a child or youth and family of the child or youth who has been referred because of identified problems in the family or community. The group prevention planned activities must be focused on reducing the risk that individuals will experience behavioral, substance abuse or delinquency-related problems. Appropriate curriculum-based group activities include, but are not limited to, First Offender groups, prevention and relationship enhancement groups, anger management groups, life skills groups, substance abuse education groups, smoking cessation groups, STD/HIV groups and parenting groups,
- **individual paraprofessional services** which include services delineated in the treatment plan of the juvenile which are necessary for full integration of the juvenile into the home and community, but do not require a professional level of education and experience. Activities include assisting families with Medicaid applications, assisting with school and General Educational Development (GED) enrollment, assisting youth with independent living arrangements, providing assistance with educational problems and deficiencies, acting as a role model for youth while engaging them in community activities, assisting youth in seeking and obtaining employment, providing transportation for required appointments and activities, participating in recreational activities and accessing other required community support services necessary for full community integration and successful treatment,
- **tutoring** which includes a tutor and student working together as a learning team to bring about overall academic success, improved self-esteem and increased independence as a learner for the student,

- **community relations** which include public or community relations activities directed toward the community or public at large or any segment of the public to encourage understanding, accessibility and use of community-based facilities, programs or services,
- **emergency shelter** beds and shelter host homes which include emergency shelter care for juveniles referred to the program needing shelter care within the State of Oklahoma,
- **transitional living programs** which include a structured program to help older homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependence on social services,
- **community-at-risk services (C.A.R.S.)** which include a program provided to juveniles in custody or under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Affairs or a juvenile bureau to prevent out-of-home placement and to reintegrate juveniles returning from placements. The program shall include, but not be limited to, treatment plan development, counseling, diagnostic and evaluation services, mentoring, tutoring, and supervision of youth in independent living,
- **first offender programs** which include alternative diversion programs for first-time offenders, as defined by Section 7303-4.6 of this title,
- **teen court programs** which include teen court programs subject to the requirements and procedures provided in Section 7303-4.6 of this title,
- **teen substance abuse schools** which include teen substance abuse schools that shall include any program approved by the court that provides educational, motivational and behavior modification instruction for juveniles who have chemical dependency problems, and
- Other community-based facilities, programs or services designated by the Board as core community-based facilities, programs or services.

GOALS

"Planning" means setting performance expectations and goals for groups and individuals to channel their efforts toward achieving organizational objectives. It also includes the measures that will be used to determine whether expectations and goals are being met. Involving stakeholders in the planning process helps them understand the goals of the Plan, what needs to be done, why it needs to be done, and how well it should be done.

The following goals and objectives are systemic in nature. It was decided early on that the enhancement of the system should be the first priority. Services that have been traditionally provided will continue. It is hoped that through the enhancement of the system new ideas will drive the advancement of services toward more effective solutions.

Future plans will address more specifically service provision. Each stakeholder wants to ensure that the State of Oklahoma is utilizing the best methods of addressing local needs. It is believed that by enhancing, correcting or developing the systemic process of youth and family services we can then move forward in addressing how services are best implemented.

The goals and objectives of this State Plan will guide the implementation of innovative approaches to enhancing the prevention, early intervention and treatment systems through collaboration among state agencies, various stakeholders, youth service agencies, partners, advocates, and community representatives.

Goal 1: Maintain and increase the capacity of local community-based youth service agencies to provide prevention, intervention and treatment services to meet identified needs. This goal focuses on assisting community-based youth services in maintaining and/or increasing the capacity to deliver efficient and effective prevention, intervention and treatment services.

Objective 1.1: Integrate core competencies for prevention and intervention services with a uniform system wide intake process that utilizes a common at-risk assessment instrument.

Benchmarks:

- Develop an at-risk assessment instrument that addresses core competencies.
- Core competencies for prevention and intervention service providers are finalized and integrated into the application of a uniform assessment instrument.
- Data from the uniform assessment instrument is utilized to identify client service needs; and the training and technical assistance needs of service providers.

Objective 1.2: Enhance the capacity of prevention, intervention and treatment providers in delivering effective services through community and state partnerships.

Benchmarks:

- Collaborative efforts to identify learning opportunities and training needs are identified and addressed at the community level.
- Training and technical assistance that is provided by the partnership is responsive to the identified needs of communities.
- Training and technical assistance is provided at the cluster and community level whenever possible.
- An interagency, cross-discipline course in prevention is developed in a collaborative effort with the Stakeholders Prevention Taskforce Committee.

Objective 1.3: Enhance the level of service provision in rural areas.

Benchmarks:

- Increase the viability for Mental Health Professionals (MHP) to be retained in rural areas through incentive programs.
- Examine the billing procedures to allow a more flexible billing structure.
- Increase funding for substance abuse services.
- Modify billing requirements surrounding Substance Abuse services, to allow for licensed providers (LPC, LMFT, LBP, etc.) to bill for services in this area.
- Enhance prevention services in rural communities for youth not in crisis.

Goal 2: Develop and maintain mechanisms to ensure collaborative planning and decision-making between local service providers, community groups, and state agencies. The focus of this goal is to ensure ongoing planning efforts across state agencies, between state and local community groups, and within communities.

Objective 2.1: Maintain and improve communication between the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Youth Service Agencies and the Division of Community-based Youth Services

Benchmarks:

- Work together to develop a comprehensive Needs Assessment Process to identify and document problems to be addressed.
- Develop a uniform needs assessment survey instrument to be incorporated into the existing Youth Service Agencies needs assessment for each catchment area.
- Describe existing data sources to include in the needs assessment.
- Identify state and local entities whose opinions will be requested for input.
- Develop schedule and timelines to complete the needs assessment process.
- Support the Stakeholders Prevention Taskforce Committee, which will recommend guidelines for prevention services, identify training opportunities, and review 'best practice' programs for introduction into the system.

- Develop a calendar where the representatives of the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Youth Service Agencies, Community-based Services Division and Juvenile Services Division meet regularly.

Objective 2.2: Strengthen the collaborative relationship between the Office of Juvenile Affairs, Youth Service Agencies, and the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services in advocacy efforts.

Benchmarks:

- Representatives of each entity establish common goals for prevention and community based services.
- Advocacy for Community-based Youth Services as well as resources for those services is presented as a unified effort.

Goal 3: Coordinate and streamline state-level processes. This goal focuses on objectives and activities related to implementing streamlined and coordinated processes for distributing resources and administering programs.

Objective 3.1: Improve communication among state agencies, foundations, local service providers and local coalitions regarding existing programs/services and potential sources of funding.

Benchmarks:

- Establish a development team for the proposal process.
- Develop a Standard Proposal for Designated Youth Service Agencies.
- Oklahoma Association of Youth Services program personnel and Community-based Youth Services Division program personnel meet monthly for enhancement of operations between Youth Service Agencies and Office of Juvenile Affairs.

Objective 3.2 Clarify the roles of the Community-based Youth Services Division program, local Youth Service Agencies, and Oklahoma Association of Youth Services.

Benchmarks:

- Develop and maintain a timely contracting process.
- Maintain a claims processing procedure that allows quick payment of claims.
- Establish guidelines and standards for the contract monitoring, peer review, and evaluation of Youth Service Agencies.
- Define the rules for Youth Service Agencies designation.
- Collaborate to determine the process for resolving issues.

Goal 4: Promote prevention, early intervention and treatment services for children and youth. The focus of this goal is on reporting program outcomes and accomplishments to key decision-making groups.

Objective 4.1: Report effective service outcomes to decision makers.

Benchmarks:

- Analysis of the statewide evaluation outcome data is conducted and data findings are utilized to document and to report on service priorities and needs, as well as to demonstrate effectiveness of services and to identify areas for improvement in the state prevention, intervention and treatment systems.
- Outcome findings on prevention, intervention and treatment services for children and youth are made available in various formats for use by state and local decision-makers, in particular progress reports.

Goal 5: Assure that user-friendly data are available to local communities. The focus of this goal is to provide access to data in order to assist local planning and decision-making processes.

Objective 5.1: Establish a mechanism for data collection and distribution.

Benchmarks:

- Establish a statewide database that measures resources and provides indicators for service provision.
- Develop data system for non-offenders for reasons of confidentiality.
- Include local needs assessments in the resource/indicator database.
- Utilize Kids Count resource guide to supplement data gathering procedures.
- Insure technical assistance regarding data analysis is available for YSA.

Goal 6: Enhance prevention, early intervention and treatment services through the application of standards for providers and service delivery, promoting “best practices/best processes,” and fostering rigorous program evaluation. This goal focuses on the application of standards for providers and service delivery, promoting evidence-based approaches to services, and evaluating effectiveness of services.

Objective 6.1: Increase utilization of evidence-based prevention, intervention and treatment programs and strategies among Office of Juvenile Affairs and Youth Service Agencies.

Benchmarks:

- Partner with state agencies to get funding for evidence-based program implementation.
- Promote effort to support start up, training and consultation costs.

Objective 6.2: Utilize program standards for communicating expectations, ongoing monitoring, and providing incentives for quality community-based prevention programs and services.

Benchmarks:

- Consensus is increased on the functions of program quality and on standards for prevention and community-based programs.
- Duplication and gaps in standards and quality indicators in the system are identified.
- An integrated set of quality indicators for the community-based prevention programs and services are developed.
- Ways to measure quality and to report on quality measures across all service areas of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare systems are determined and defined.

Objective 6.3: Utilize outcome data and performance measures to identify service priorities and needs and to demonstrate effectiveness of services.

Benchmarks:

- Establish a protocol at various levels for the analysis of data, in particular aggregate data, across state agencies and local Youth Service Agencies.
- Aggregate data is used to make decisions about planning, funding priorities, and capacity development.

Goal 7: Review and revise the State Plan. The focus of this goal is to review the State Plan annually and revise it annually, as necessary, in conjunction with collaborative partners and with input from local communities.