

Caring Connections



IS YOUR SYSTEMS OF CARE SITE REALLY YOUTH DRIVEN?

The key principle embedded within the philosophy of “youth driven” is that young people of Oklahoma regardless of race, ethnicity, color, socioeconomic status or cultural background have the right to be empowered. Youth should have a key decision making role in the care of their lives as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in the community. This includes creating a safe environment where youth can develop and sustain healthy developmental techniques. Through the process of creating youth driven communities, professionals should be aware of the positive impact youth empowerment and choice has on young people.

To truly embrace the youth’s voice requires actively promoting a community that is youth-driven, youth-directed or youth-guided.

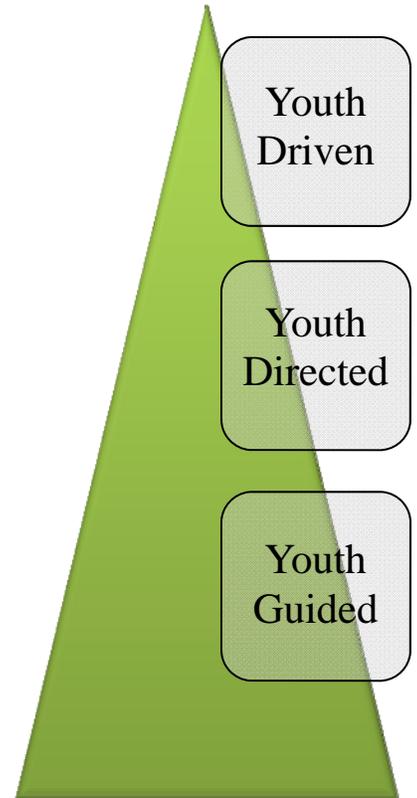
Youth-driven communities fully embrace youth as partners and are dedicated to authentic youth involvement. Youth have meaningful roles in leadership positions including governance and programming. There are multiple paid positions for youth in every decision making group throughout the SOC and in the community. Youth also form and facilitate youth groups and provide training in the community based on their personal experiences.

Youth-directed communities are considered one step away from fully embracing youth at the table. In youth-directed communities, youth have positions and voting power on community boards and committees. Everyone within youth -directed communities respect the autonomy of the youth’s voice. Community members encourage active participation and recruitment of other youth. Youth are compensated for their work.

Youth-guided communities are two steps away from being fully youth-driven. Youth-guided communities are in the early stages of partnering with youth. Many youth-guided communities encourage limited youth involvement.

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DYNAMICS OF DIFFERENCE



What occurs in cross-cultural system interactions might be called the “dynamics of difference.” When a system of one culture interacts with a population from another, both may misjudge the other’s actions based on learned expectations. Each brings to the relationship unique histories with the other group and the influence of current political relationships between the two groups. The minority population may exhibit behaviors expressing tension and frustration that the system is uncomfortable with. It is important to remember this creative energy, caused by tension, is a natural part of the cross-cultural relations, especially when one of the cultures is in a politically dominant position. The system of care must be constantly vigilant over the dynamics of misinterpretation and misjudgment.

Take the Equity & Diversity Awareness Quiz. This quiz is to provide you with some knowledge of equity disparities. Have fun and continue to expand your cultural knowledge!

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median annual income for U.S. white men, 25 years or older, who have earned graduate degrees, is \$80,000. What are the annual incomes for Latina and Native American women, 25 years or older, who have earned graduate degrees?

\$80,000 and \$80,000
 \$70,000 and \$68,000 respectively
 \$60,000 and \$62,000 respectively
 \$50,000 and \$40,000 respectively

According to a study by the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, what percentage of physicians report witnessing a colleague giving reduced care to lesbian, gay, or bisexual patients?

12%
 32%
 52%
 72%

According to a 2006 report from the American Civil Liberties Union, African Americans comprise more than 37% of people arrested for drug use, 59% of those convicted for drug use, and 74% of those sentenced to prison for drug use. African Americans comprise what percentage of U.S. drug users?

15%
 30%
 45%
 60%

Answers: 1. D 2. C 3. A



E-RESOURCES FROM ODMHSAS



Have you checked out the new ODMHSAS web site?

If you have not taken time to see all the resources on the new site, you are really missing out!

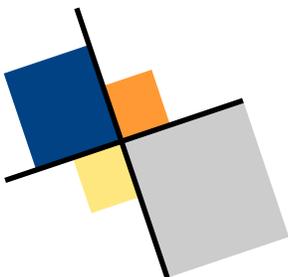
Follow these instructions to access the most up to date Oklahoma Systems of Care forms and resources:

- Go to: <http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/>
- On the left side of the home page, Click “Consumer Services”
- Click “Children, Youth and Family Services”
- Then, Click “Systems of Care”
- “SOC Forms and Resources” will give you the most updated forms and resources

ODMHSAS staff are constantly updating and adding new resources for you online; but need your input! Please take time to look over the site and let us know what you want to see online.

To give your input or ideas about the ODMHSAS web site, contact:

Amy McAlister, Administrative Officer
amcalister@odmhsas.org or (405) 522-3659



WHAT IS CHILD GUIDANCE?



The Child Guidance Program provides services to families of children from birth through age 12 to achieve the following goals:

- Support bonding and attachment with parents and caregivers of young children
- Promote optimal development and communication skills in young children
- Provide strategies to decrease challenging behavior at home and in education settings
- Services are provided by staff who possess advanced degrees in Psychology, Child Development, Speech Language Pathology, Social Work and Audiology.

Who Does Child Guidance Serve?

- All families, regardless of income, with children birth through age 12.
- Professionals who interact with children birth through age 12- Services are available in 41 counties, however residents of counties that do not have services may be eligible to be served in a nearby county.
- Services are provided on a sliding fee scale schedule, based on family size and income. Child Guidance accepts families with children enrolled in Sooner Care. No one will be refused services based on an inability to pay.

What Does Child Guidance Staff Do?

Child Guidance staff conduct developmental screening and assessment, communication and hearing screening and evaluation and psychological assessment and evaluation. They provide individual, family and group education and treatment services to address concerns in the above areas. Child Guidance staff also provide consultation to early childhood programs to address challenging behavior and other early childhood developmental concerns. This consultation is intended to promote positive social emotional development in early childhood settings, which is vital to a young child's future success. Child Guidance staff promote early identification of developmental delays and social emotional concerns through consultation with primary care providers, early childhood programs, and in public schools.

How Do Families Benefit From Child Guidance Services?

- Through child care consultation services, children at risk of being removed from child care are able to maintain placement and show improvement in behavior.
- Children with developmental delays are identified early and connected with resources to lessen the emotional and financial impact of that delay on subsequent development.
- Families learn about appropriate expectations for their child's stage of development.
- Through promoting and enhancing positive growth, families gain support to reach their potential behaviorally, emotionally, and academically.
- Increase in parenting skills, child social skills, and overall improvement in mental and emotional wellness.



For more information, contact:

OSDH Child Guidance Services

(405) 271-4477

Email: childguidance@Health.Ok.Gov

Web: <http://www.ok.gov/health/>

SPECIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Dear SOC staff members,

I would like to advise you of an upcoming training for Special Education Law. The workshop is being offered in Edmond on December 3. As a Family Support Provider, I attended this with other parents on my caseload on many occasions. From a productivity standpoint, it gave us opportunities to learn together and helped parents become more confident in contributing at the parent group meetings on IEP topics, not to mention at their own child's IEP meetings. Effective parent advocacy skills are valuable lifelong skills that they may use in other areas of their life.

Since we support many families in Wraparound, this is a great training for FSPs as well as CCs. I am planning to send this information to our statewide FSP list as we have discussed it during the FSP training, FSP quarterly meetings and at the FSP Conference. I wanted to share the information with you so that you will share it with others in your community who may benefit from attending the conference.

Gerri Mullendore

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Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference

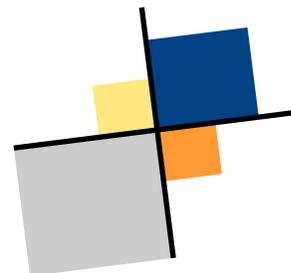
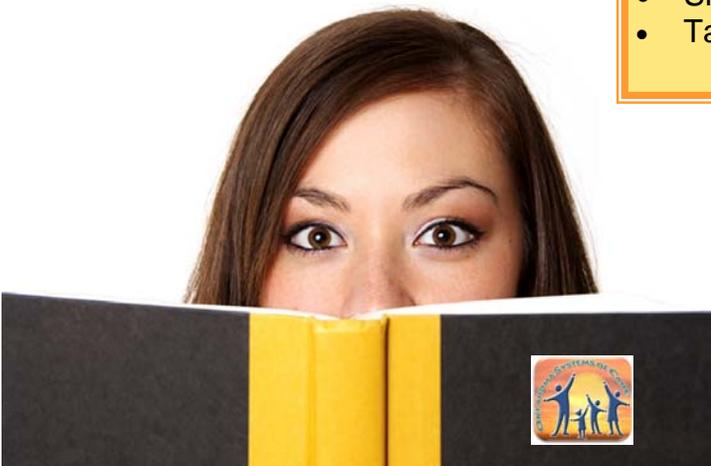
Thursday, December 3, 2009

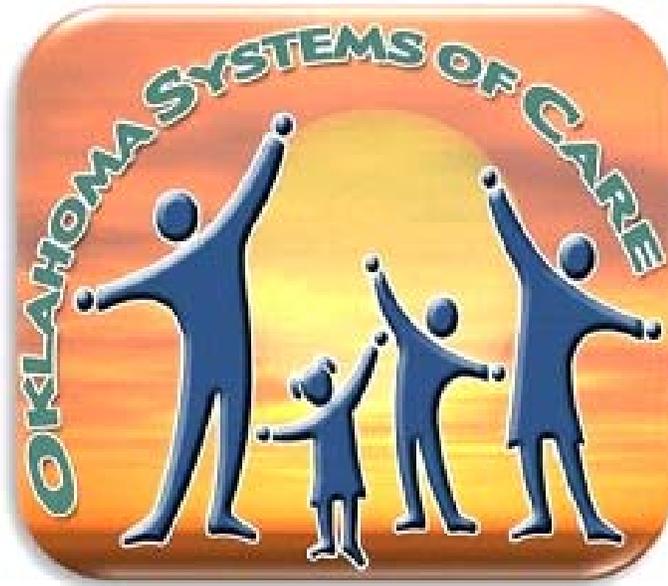
University of Central Oklahoma
Constitution Hall
100 N University Drive
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/09.12.ok.htm>

Program Description

- Special education law, rights and responsibilities
- Tests and measurements
- SMART IEPs
- Tactics & strategies for effective advocacy





www.ok.gov/odmhsas/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oklahoma Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders

For Families, Health Professionals, Educators and Advocates

November 6-7, 2009

Embassy Suites Norman - Hotel & Conference Center

Norman, Oklahoma

For more information, go to: www.okautism.org

On the Road Family Perspective Conference

October 20, 2009

Altus, Oklahoma

For more information, call 580-477-2250

For the most up to date Oklahoma Systems of Care training calendar, go to

<http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/>
And click on "Calendar of Events"

