

Service Partnership for Children of High Conflict Families

Governance Policy

I. Name

The name shall be the Service Partnership for Children of High Conflict Families (Service Partnership).

II. Vision

The vision of the Service Partnership is that all children will be screened and those identified for exposure to high conflict and domestic violence will have access to comprehensive and coordinated services through a developed system of care that meets the needs of those children and families in this community and prevents the adverse effects of exposure to high conflict and domestic violence.

III. Mission

The mission of the Service Partnership is to address the unmet needs of children of high conflict families and children exposed to domestic violence.

IV. Core Values

The following are the values that will be incorporated into the service delivery model established by the Service Partnership:

- Services should be child-centered, with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provided;
- Services should be community based, with the focus of services as well as management and decision making responsibility resting at the community level;
- Services should be culturally competent, with agencies, programs, and services that are responsive to the cultural, racial and ethnic differences of the population they serve;
- Services should build meaningful partnerships with children and families at service delivery levels, management, and policy levels.

V. Guiding Principles

The following will be the principles that guide the Service Partnership through the process of realizing the vision, mission and core values set herein:

- The Partners work collaboratively to achieve the mission and perform the duties of the Service Partnership.
- The Partners engage in a transparent process and build on each others' competencies in order to accomplish innovation.
- The Partners employ Systems of Care as an approach to services that recognizes the importance of family, school and community, and seeks to promote the full potential of every child and youth by addressing their physical, emotional, intellectual, cultural and social needs.
- Consumer needs and preferences are the basis for program funding, design and evaluation.
- Respect for the dignity of families drives the design, delivery and implementation of services.

- Effective advocacy should be promoted for the protection of rights of children of high conflict and domestic violence families.

VI. Duties

The duties of the Service Partnership include but are not limited to:

- Ongoing identification of gaps, barriers, and needs with respect to children of high conflict families
- Identification of evidence-based best practice models, programs, and services for children of high conflict families
- Facilitate the development of a community plan to address the identified gaps, barriers, and needs.
- Development of a uniform and effective communication, marketing, an outreach plan, a data and evaluation plan, and a professional/training development plan
- Oversight and fidelity of a Care Coordination/Wraparound Process
- System and service advocacy

VII. Objectives

The objectives of the Service Partnership include but are not limited to:

- To improve mental health and social outcomes for children exposed to high conflict situations and/or domestic violence
- To improve the coordination of services for children and families
- To empower families as full partners and key decision makers in services and community organizations
- To expand the capacity and variety of community-based services
- To improve the accountability of providers through effective data and reporting
- To provide care for children in the least restrictive environment
- To provide community based and culturally competent service plans and service delivery
- To provide comprehensive training for agencies and the community

VIII. Membership

Membership in the Service Partnership shall be open to all interested parties and agencies and shall be comprised of traditional and non traditional providers, consumers and families, natural helpers, business leaders, community stakeholders, schools, hospital, courts and other state agencies.

Members of the Service Partnership shall have input in decisions made in the community in addressing the unmet needs of children of high conflict families and domestic violence. Members agree to work collaboratively under the guiding principles and core values as set forth herein.

VII. Meetings

The Service Partnership will meet the last Tuesday of every month for the first year of operation, unless otherwise stated, beginning February, 2007.

VIII. Planning Committees

All partnership agencies and individuals are invited to participate in planning committees, as developed by the Service Partnership. Agencies, organizations, and individual natural helpers and/or consumers participating in the planning phase during the first year of operations will be awarded stipends for attending and participating in monthly planning meetings. Those eligible for receiving stipends are not-for-profit organizations, non-governmental natural helpers, and individual consumers. Stipends will be equally divided among these partners as allowed by the annual budget.

VI. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is designated as the governing body of the Partnership. The Steering Committee will include members of the judiciary, the CEO of the Service Partnership's lead agency and fiscal agent (The Advocate Program), the County Child Advocate, a County Department of Human Services representative, a shelter representative, a school representative, representatives from academic institutions, business leaders, community/natural helpers, and consumers. There will be no set term limit for members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee's role is to ensure the integrity of the process, ensure that System of Care principles are maintained throughout the planning process, act in an advisory capacity, and set Service Partnership policies and procedures. The Steering Committee will also manage conflicts that may occur between partnership members.
