## New Mexico System of Care
Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Deborah B. Altschul, Ph.D., Melina Salvador, Lindsay Smart, Ph.D., Julie Griffin Salvador, Ph.D., Suzanne Pearlman, Erica Padilla

### Why Systems of Care (SOC) are Needed

5-9% of children and youth 9-17 years old have Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) that cause substantial functional impairment.

Many these individuals **do not receive the supports and services they need** to reach their full potential at home, school, or in the community.

Many young people with behavioral health challenges are **involved with multiple public and private systems** (e.g., education, behavioral health, juvenile justice, protective services, primary care, and community agencies).

Services and supports **are often not coordinated or integrated**, and sometimes are inconsistent or even in conflict.

The goal of this mixed-method study is to **examine the impact of service system transformation on outcomes for youth and their families**.

### Program Description

New Mexico applied for and received a 6-year grant:
- Funding and grant management are housed within the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD);
- The UNM Psychiatry Department’s Center for Rural and Community Behavioral Health is responsible for conducting related services research;
- Initiatives are statewide, with focused service expansion in Silver City, Santa Clara Pueblo, and the Albuquerque Highland Cluster.

Research initiatives include:
- A **longitudinal outcome study** examining the impact of services on youth and family functioning.
- A **Services and Cost Study** to examine service utilization and cost.
- A **Cross-Sectional Descriptive Study** to determine service recipient demographics.
- A **Service Experience Study** to determine satisfaction and appropriateness of services.
- A **Sustainability Study** to determine likelihood of continuation post-grant

### Projected Outcomes

- **Increased functioning for youth and families**
- **Expansion of training and technical assistance in wraparound, cultural competency, social marketing, and other SOC-related topics**
- **Increased state and local inter-agency collaboration**
- **Development of collective learning venues for statewide training and technical assistance**
- **Increased family and youth participation in planning and policy development**
- **Reduced stigma and increased awareness of behavioral health services**
- **Reduced ethnic, geographic, and economic disparities by training clinicians to provide culturally and linguistically competent and effective services**
- **Increased legislative appropriations to sustain statewide SOC infrastructure**
- **Improved data infrastructure by developing a data warehouse across systems and expanding current management information systems**

---

[New Mexico System of Care](http://hsc.unm.edu/som/psychiatry/CRCBH)