

Mental Health in Early Childhood

Policies and Funding that Support a Continuum of Care

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Guiding organizations in children's mental health strategy

Early Childhood Mental Health in Colorado:

An Environmental Scan of Challenges, Progress and
Recommendations for the Social and Emotional Health
of Colorado's Young Children

This report has been prepared for Caring for Colorado Foundation and Rose
Community Foundation by JFK Partners at the University of Colorado School of
Medicine| Anschutz Medical Campus



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN COLORADO: **PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**

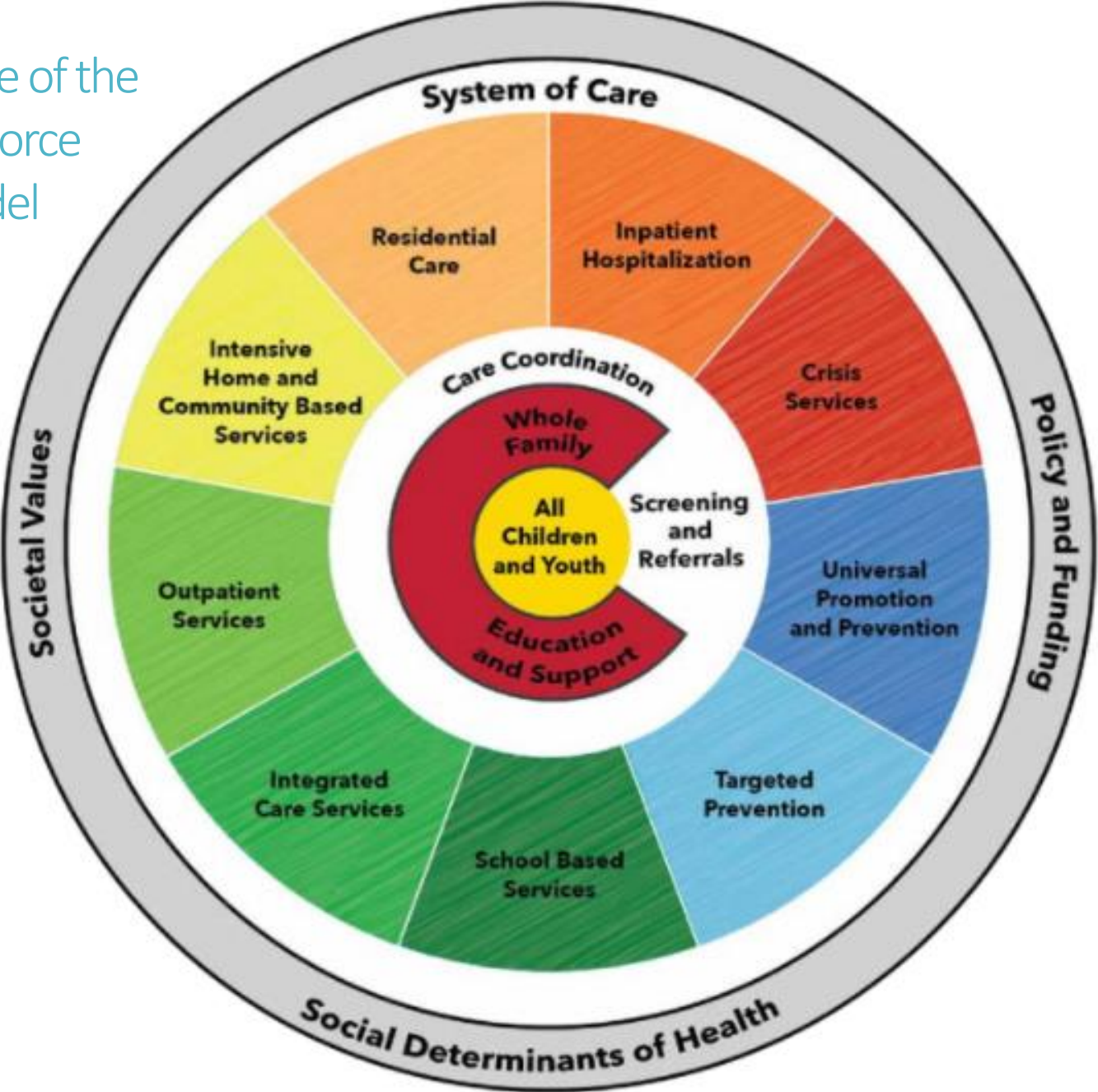
A Blueprint for Reform



*Health is a state of complete
physical, mental, and social
well-being and not merely the
absence of disease or
infirmity*

-World Health Organization

Children's Subcommittee of the
Behavioral Health Task Force
Continuum of Care Model



What does children's mental health look like?

- Reaching developmental and emotional milestones
- Having healthy social skills
- Knowing how to cope when there are problems
- Overall positive quality of life
- Function well overall at home, school, and in community

10 Policy Strategies

1. Maternal depression/anxiety screening and response
2. Early childhood social emotional screening and response
3. Risk factor screening and response
4. Effective assessment and diagnosis using an appropriate diagnostic system
5. Care coordination/navigation linking families to services
6. Early childhood mental health consultation in ECE programs
7. Integrated early childhood mental health into pediatric care
8. Dyadic treatment
9. Parenting programs
10. Investment in workforce capacity-building

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