



"Families should be regarded as experts on their children, working together with service providers."

Dear {FIRST\_NAME|W.Va. Policy & Program Leaders},

**Families of children with mental health challenges should be able to get the help they need, close to home.**

That is why family and youth leaders, service providers and state leaders have been working together since 2006 to create Pathways for Meaningful Change in all West Virginia's child-serving systems.

Welcome to the first monthly issue of "Pathways," where you will learn about what this vital change "looks like." [Visit our new website](#) to learn how you can be part of WV's progress!

**Regional Clinical Review Teams have proven effective in reducing out-of-state placement & identifying statewide service needs**



The WV System of Care supports a clinical review process in West Virginia. This is a coordinated effort designed to provide a comprehensive, objective, clinical review of youth with the most serious challenges.

This effort has contributed to the following trends:

- **There was a 7% decrease in the number of youth out of state last year.**
- **In 2010-2011 there was a 9% decrease.**
- **There has been a 19% reduction since 2007.**

[Read the Full 2012 Report](#)

**Report to Legislature  
Studies WV Children's  
Behavioral Health Options**  
—West Virginia University

[Download Report](#)

OUR MISSION: The West Virginia System of Care is a public-private-consumer partnership dedicated to building and maintaining effective community based services and supports for children and youth with, or at-risk for behavioral health related challenges, and their families.

**Next Month: Pathways to Trauma-Informed Care**

## What Should Families Expect of Service Providers? How Does West Virginia Stack Up?



For parents of children with serious behavioral health challenges, working with several different providers can be confusing, even overwhelming, unless service providers and families work as a team. [A System of Care Family Guide](#) can help parents and guardians know **what questions to ask, what they can expect; and what they can do to help their children**, and possibly prevent placement in more expensive, restrictive "systems."

Professionals, agencies and systems in West Virginia are striving toward a new standard called "Family-Driven Care."

- [Learn what WV Family Driven Care "looks like"](#)

**Together, we are changing the way care and services are provided to families of children with behavioral health needs. These changes are based on [Eight key principles](#). [Read More...](#)**

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