

# BLENDING AND BRAIDING FUNDS TO SUPPORT A SYSTEM OF CARE

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*Susan Cumbia Clare, Executive Director  
Office of Comprehensive Services*

# Systems of Care

Systems of Care philosophy and core principles are the foundation of the Comprehensive Services Act.

*The mission of the CSA is to create a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youth and their families in the Commonwealth.*



Office of  
Comprehensive  
Services

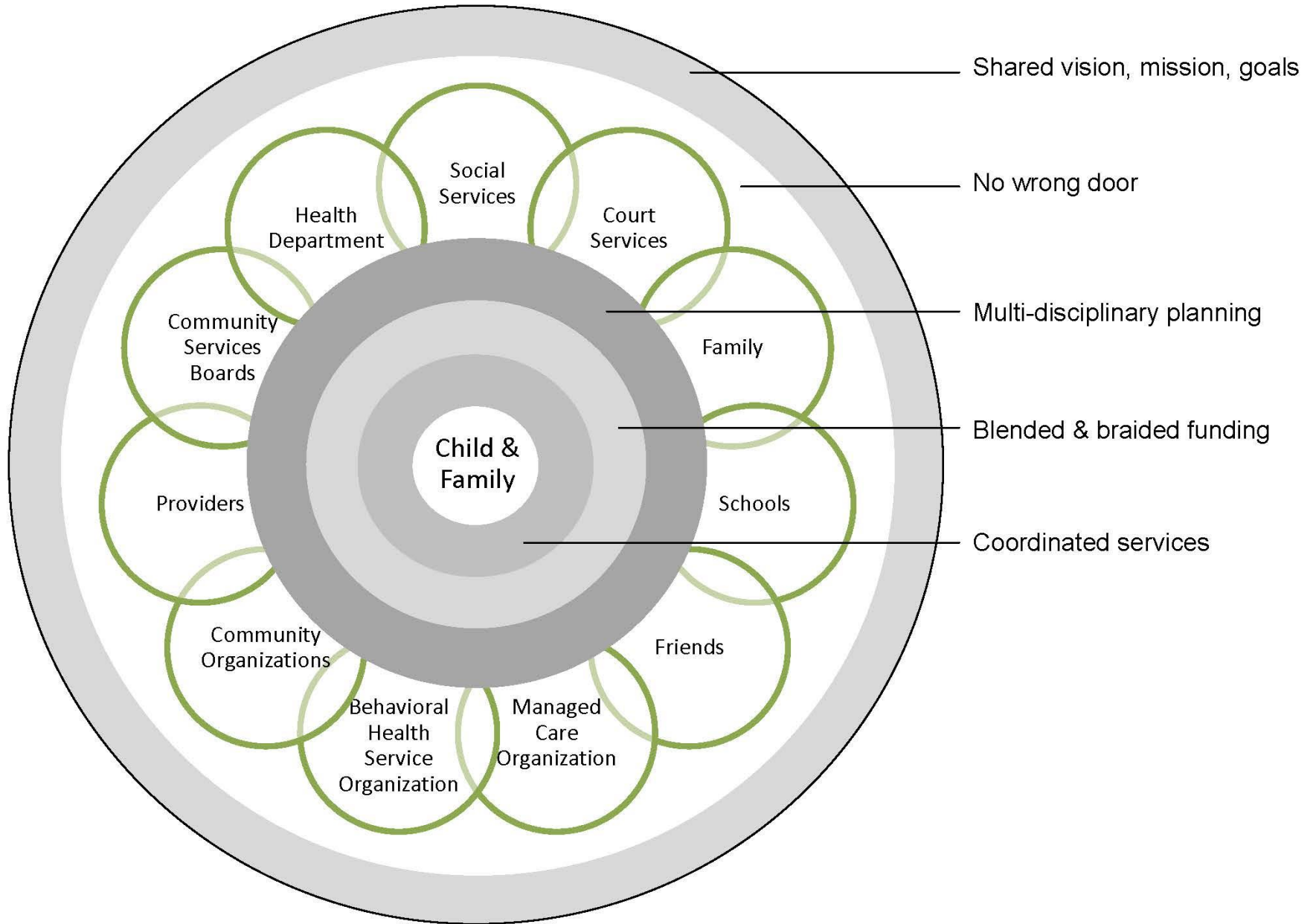
Empowering communities to serve youth

# Systems of Care

There is a growing body of evidence showing that the philosophy and values embodied in a system of care approach are producing remarkable outcomes for youth and families while at the same time reducing the need for more costly and restrictive placements.



# Virginia's Comprehensive System of Care



# Blended and Braided Funding

Financial structure encourages effective and efficient use of all available resources and maximization of federal funding streams. Access to available funding resources is available in one place and through one mechanism.



# Coordinating funds

- ◎ Blending funds – fund streams are melded into a single “pot” where one can no longer be distinguished from another.
- ◎ Braiding funds – fund streams are woven together and used in coordinated fashion.

# CSA Blended Fund Streams

- ◎ Department of Education (private special education)
- ◎ Department of Social Services (foster care)
- ◎ Department of Juvenile Justice (special placements)
- ◎ Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (bed purchase)
- ◎ Interagency Consortium

# Children's Services Funding

- ◎ Pool Funds (CSA)
- ◎ Title IV-E
- ◎ Medicaid
- ◎ Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- ◎ Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act
- ◎ Mental Health Initiative funds
- ◎ MH Block Grant funds



# Braid funds locally

- ◎ To utilize resources effectively
- ◎ To maximize federal funds
- ◎ To “stretch” community’s resources
  - Serve as many youth as possible
  - Reduce/eliminate “cracks”
  - Fill service gaps

# Braid funds locally

- ◎ To establish consistency
  - Standard practice models
- ◎ To ensure child's needs, not funds, drive services
- ◎ To facilitate access to funds, i.e., resources are available in one place/via one process

# Designing a Strategic Financing Plan

- ◎ Identify core funding streams
- ◎ Understand scope of services available
- ◎ Understand financing needs
- ◎ Identify and recognize federal/state requirements for use of funds

# Design a Strategic Financing Plan

- ◎ Assess gaps between needs and funding
  - Age
  - Eligibility
  - Service limitations
  
- ◎ Identify strategies for implementation

# Compliance with Laws/Policies

- ◎ Structures the state's financing plan
- ◎ Ensures maximization of federal funds
- ◎ Regulatory consistency
  - Safety of youth
  - Rights of youth and families
  - Oversight of facilities and services

**FUNDS COMMONLY  
BRAIDED?**

# OPPORTUNITIES TO BRAID FUNDS?