

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

# Center for Child and Human Development

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER  
FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

### “PRIMER HANDS ON” – TRAINING FOR LEADERS ON BUILDING EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS OF CARE

January 12, 2012

Dear Colleague:

The National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University is writing to invite you, and other key leaders that you identify as strategic to implementing your system of care initiatives, to participate in our next *Primer Hands On* training on April 23 & 24, 2012 in Washington, DC. This is an exciting capacity building initiative we are sponsoring to build a network of key leaders who are trained in a detailed understanding of what it takes to build effective systems of care. Based on *Building Systems of Care: A Primer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, by Sheila Pires, the training covers the structure, components, and elements of effective systems of care and the strategic processes essential to engaging partners in systems building.

#### **Overview of the Initiative and Criteria for Participating**

This initiative targets leaders across child-serving systems and stakeholder groups from states, tribes, territories, and communities, the national level, family organizations, and neighborhoods who already play influential roles in the development of systems of care for children at-risk for or with serious emotional disturbances and their families. Over a two-day interactive training, leaders will learn how to use the organizing framework and strategic approach laid out in *Building Systems of Care: A Primer* to advance their system building efforts. After completing the training, participants will be given copies of all the training materials so that they can use them as educational tools for their work with others in their states and communities.



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*University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities*

The National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health at Georgetown University is managing this effort in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at the federal Center for Mental Health Services and in conjunction with the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health and the Technical Assistance Partnership at the American Institute for Research.

You may have already participated in a *Primer Hands On* training. If so, we are asking you to think strategically about others in your state, territory, tribe or community for whom the *Primer* training would be helpful and to forward this invitation to them. This might include key agency directors (e.g., child welfare, education, juvenile justice, etc.), providers, supervisors, judges, family and youth leaders, legislators, or others who are critical to your efforts to build sustainable systems of care. If you yourself have not yet participated in the *Primer Hands On* training, we encourage you to do so. Space is very limited so please respond quickly.

Each individual interested in participating must meet the following criteria and expectations:

- ❖ Occupies a key position or plays a key role in the development of systems of care at the national, state, tribal, or community level;
- ❖ Has a baseline of knowledge about building systems of care that this training can enhance;
- ❖ Is a strategic thinker and leader;
- ❖ Is in a position to work with others on building systems of care;
- ❖ Agrees to be part of a national network built to ensure the quality of the training provided, assist others with strategic planning, and provide feedback to further improve the *Primer* as a strategic planning tool; and
- ❖ Has access to funds to pay the registration, transportation, hotel, meals and other costs to attend the training. There is a non-refundable \$320 registration fee.

### **Further Details About the *Primer Hands On* Training**

Sheila Pires of the Human Service Collaborative and author of the *Primer* will take the lead in conducting the training. Her co-trainers are Lisa Conlan, Family Consultant; Kathy Lazaar, Research and Training Center for Children’s Mental Health at the University of South Florida; and Ashley Keenan, Youth Speaking Out, Parent Support Network of Rhode Island. The co-trainers bring many years of expertise in the areas of family and youth partnerships, cultural diversity, system administration, and frontline practice change.

The *Primer* training will cover in depth material from the *Primer*, including:

- ❖ Effective engagement of partners in building systems of care;
- ❖ A strategic approach to system building;
- ❖ Critical elements of effective system building processes;
- ❖ The pros and cons of different structural approaches;
- ❖ Key components and functions that need to be structured in systems of care, such as training, policy and practice protocols, financing, the collection of outcome data, etc.; and
- ❖ How process and structure affect the experiences of those involved in system building and outcomes realized through practice change.

Sheila Pires developed the curriculum for the training based on using *Building Systems of Care: A Primer* as a tool for teaching a strategic approach to system building. The curriculum

incorporates scenarios related to system building that require strategic leadership that participants can practice using the framework in the *Primer*. Our hope is that those who complete the training will then be able to adapt *Primer Hands On* content and materials to use in their own work. Participants will be provided with all of the *Primer Hands On* training materials, including the curriculum, case scenarios, exercises, and over 130 PowerPoint slides to assist them.

We have built in an evaluation process for quality improvement that creates multiple opportunities for feedback on the use of the *Primer*, encouraging input that will continuously improve the *Primer* and the training.

### **Signing Up To Participate**

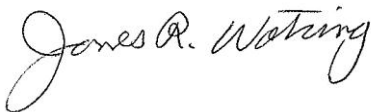
All interested participants must complete and submit an Interest Form by February 10, 2012 (Interest Form link: <https://www4.georgetown.edu/uis/keybridge/keyform/form.cfm?FormID=4379>)

If you have any questions, please contact MelKisha Knight via email at [mk73@georgetown.edu](mailto:mk73@georgetown.edu). In order to keep the size of the training to 25 leaders, interested participants will be selected from all individuals who respond by the deadline. A notification of your acceptance will then be sent via email with an on-line Registration Form and a *Primer* website link with additional information on the training itself. There is a **\$320 registration fee** that will be due upon submitting your registration form. In addition, participants will be responsible for all their expenses in attending the two-day orientation session. This includes transportation, hotel, meals, and miscellaneous expenses. A room block has been set aside at a special group rate of \$189 per night for out-of-town training participants. More details will be provided on the *Primer* website.

This *Primer Hands On* training will be held April 23 & 24, 2012 in Washington, DC. The training will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 23, 2012 and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

We look forward to your response and interest in the *Primer Hands On* training.

Sincerely,



James R. Wotring, M.S.W.  
Director, National Technical Assistance Center for  
Children's Mental Health