

Mission

We are entrusted with the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who become system-involved and acknowledge that interaction with state agencies is traumatic for children and families. We seek to divert at-risk children and families from the formal system in ways that mitigate trauma and engage community-based, best practices for the best outcomes for children.

Core Values

SAFETY: We are focused on keeping children, youth, families, and communities safe. We engage families in family preservation services to protect children and youth from abuse and neglect and safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate. We provide effective deterrents to acts of juvenile delinquency with an emphasis on community-based alternatives. We build community-based services to meet behavioral health needs.

PERMANENCY: We work to provide children with permanency and stability in their living situations and the continuity of family relationships and connections. We help youth prepare for adulthood.

WELL-BEING: We provide services to families to enhance their capacity to provide for their children's needs. Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs and physical and emotional health. Youth address their trauma and/or victimization through victim empathy and restorative justice. Youth work to build educational physical and emotional health

Principles

We seek to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being by implementing systems and services that are *trauma responsive*; providing *community-based therapeutic supports in the most family-like setting*; understanding the importance of and maintaining the *cultural connections and tribal sovereignty* of children, families, and tribes; honoring and centering *youth and family voice and choice*; and ensuring we use *collaborative, team-based* decision-making alongside families. We are committed to building a workforce worthy of this trust through continual *professional growth and development* and a standard of *cultural humility practice*.

Moving beyond cultural competence, the workforce will meet the standard of cultural humility practice, engaging with others in an open and respectful manner, honoring self-determination of children and families, and developing a practice of critical self-reflection, building a commitment to mitigate the impact of biases of interactions and decisions.

A well-trained workforce using national best practices and data-driven, unbiased decision-making will build continual learning opportunities. Research, data, standards, and the needs of children and families are ever-changing and require ongoing development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

Decisions are made together with families, valuing the strengths of the child and family, inclusive of natural supports, and respectful of the child and family's unique cultural heritage.

A trauma-responsive process identifies, recognizes, and understands the effects of and provides, with an appropriate sense of urgency, sufficient services and supports to ameliorate trauma, including the vicarious trauma for our workforce.

Children receiving community-based therapeutic supports in the most family-like setting are provided the opportunity to safely live in a stable living situation with their parents or family or in the least restrictive, temporary setting that recognizes and provides for their unique needs.

A culturally responsive system values diversity, understands differences, and develops services and supports to honor the unique culture of each family, community, pueblo, or tribe.

Children and families should have a voice and choice in decisions about where and with whom they live, which schools they attend, and what services they should receive to address their educational, emotional, and physical needs.

