

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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June 27, 2012

Dr. Gary M. Blau, Chief
Child, Adolescent and Family Branch
Center for Mental Health Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1 Choke Cherry Road, Room 6-1045
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Washington State Application for System of Care Expansion Implementation
Cooperative Agreements – Program RFA No. SM-12-003

Dear Dr. Blau:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support and commitment for the Department of Social and Health Services, Aging and Disability Services Administration, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, to expand the System of Care (SOC) throughout the state for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families.

The SOC planning grant has fostered groundbreaking partnerships with family and youth organizations and across state agencies. Washington State has a long history as a leader in providing individualized comprehensive mental health services to children and their families. The SOC shared governance model will help our communities engage families and youth as leaders in achieving outcomes for children and youth across systems.

The strategic plan is closely aligned with our state's priorities. In an era of great fiscal challenge, we continue to strive for innovation. One example is the county sales tax initiative to support mental health, which some counties are electing to use to expand and sustain wraparound services and supports. Washington has also demonstrated its commitment to children and families through legislation clearly grounded in SOC philosophy, the values of evidence-based practice and coordinated care. Support from this grant will help us align initiatives and embed SOC principles, services and supports as the foundation of our children's mental health system.

Thank you for this timely opportunity to advance the System of Care in Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

