

Vulnerable families are often the most in need of multiple services and community supports to address their behavioral health needs. These needs are often exacerbated by larger social conditions such as poverty, racism, violence, and untreated trauma. The solution lies in an integrated response because no one child- or family-serving system has the resources to address person-specific issues and the larger social conditions that affect them.

In 2003 and 2004, CWLA and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation convened a series of three summits as a first step toward addressing this problem. The summits brought together the experience and expertise of a diverse range of stakeholders, including federal, state, and local officials; public and private service agencies; researchers and academics; and service consumers, including youth involved with the different systems and their families.

This monograph is the first of two to be released to support the development of a consensus agenda for systems-culture change. It addresses what we know and what we are learning to improve the quality of care for our most vulnerable children, youth, and families. The second monograph will outline a detailed plan for systems-culture change across these systems and identify the steps needed to implement this approach at the national, state, and local level.

Improving the Quality of Care for the Most Vulnerable Children, Youth, and Their Families

Finding Consensus

*Steve Hornberger
with Sid L. Gardner,
Nancy K. Young,
Nancy P. Gannon,
and Trina Osher*



HEADQUARTERS
440 First Street, NW, Third Floor • Washington, DC 20001-2085
202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

C W L A P R E S S