



Aetna Better Health SKY Governance Council

What is the Governance Model?

Aetna Better Health of Kentucky SKY program approaches Governance based on the principles that underpin our innovative direct care service model with emphasis on collaboration and respect for divergent perspectives. The principles of innovation have proven to be most effective when they are embedded in all levels of care, management, collaborations and governance.

Aetna's approach to the child welfare system draws from numerous best practices, innovative national trends in child welfare reform, and the goals of the State to reduce the number of children in the child welfare system and prevent system involvement on the front end. Included in this approach is a leadership and governance design that supports efficacy to innovation at the direct care level thus modeling the values and principles in a parallel process manner resulting in coherence and alignment from leadership on down to the individual care teams.

What is the purpose of the Governance Council?

The Governance Council ensures collaboration and deep democracy

practices are embedded in all levels of the Foster Care System in the interest of achieving system transformation and the achievement of the primary goals of the Family First Prevention Services Act;

- Reduce the number of children being removed due to neglect;
- Reduce the number of children placed in long-term out of home placement
- Ensure that Transition Aged Youth have viable permanency and transition to adulthood plans
- Ensure that every Foster Care System involved youth has a comprehensive, multiple life domain planned with at least two community resources

What is the background?

Aetna researched similar large-scale system change efforts when discovering the collaborative approach to Governance. The primary models that include training collaboratives include:

- Trauma Informed Care (TIC)
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
- Wraparound
- Charting the LifeCourse
- Homebuilders

Integral to these effective models and the systemic changes they produced was the

Collaborative Governance concept. The aforementioned models have been most effective when their Governance Councils are robust, consist of numerous divergent perspectives and are improved over time based on the Governance Council self-evaluation as well as the results of direct care, data supported outcome measures, and Member Advisory Council and Focus Group feedback and recommendations.

What Governance Council Design?

We will convene and launch a Governance Council composed of: Youth Partners, Parent Partners, DMS/DCBS/DJJ Leaders, Provider Network Leads, Community Representatives, and Aetna Department Leads among other stakeholders. Each member of the Governance body brings a unique perspective on the needs of families involved in the foster care, juvenile justice and post-adoption systems of care. A Governance structure that includes divergent perspectives by design mirrors the Whole Person Care Coordination model. This robust model of oversight also ensures that decisions are informed by these divergent perspectives and is far more viable than a more homogeneous group of like-minded individuals.

The two most important perspectives to have on the Governance Council are those of foster/JJ youth and the parents involved in those systems of care. One of the key tenets of Wraparound is a commitment to ensuring youth and

parents' voice, choice and preference in all aspects of care from beginning to transition. Aetna believes that the principles and standards of Wraparound care need to be embedded in every component of the organization from Governance down to each Care Coordination Team resulting in system change that is sustainable. Aetna will include Youth Partners and Parent Partners on the Governance Council who will ensure voice, choice and preference for those we serve in all oversight and accountability functions.

References

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