

**Join Hands for Children
Advisory Committee on Legal and Practice Issues**

The core values that should drive the addition of any services beyond the legally mandated services include the beliefs that:

- All services should be available statewide;
- A lack of housing, food, or employment is a barrier to success;
- State agencies should form a coordinated, collaborative system to providing care to children and families;
- Services should be provided in a culturally competent manner that includes using bilingual and interpretive services;
- Foster youth should be included in as many decisions as possible;
- Parents should be engaged and their input valued;
- When the department assumes the care of the child, the department owes the child the same level of care as a parent; and
- Decisions should look to evidence-based practices.