

Join Hands for Children
Advisory Committee on Legal and Practice Issues
Principles and Values used to Determine Core Services

In addition to providing the legally mandated child welfare services, the Advisory Committee on Legal and Practice Issues believes that the system should strive to address any and all barriers to safety, permanency and well-being for children and families in the system. The core values that should drive the addition of any services beyond the legally mandated services include:

- All services will be available and accessible statewide;
- The system should address the reality that families' basic needs including lack of housing, food or employment are barriers to successful reunification
- State agencies and service providers will form a coordinated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of services to children and families;
- Services will be provided in a culturally competent manner that includes the usage of bilingual and interpretive services;
- Services to reduce racial disproportionality;
- Services must be provided in a timely manner;
- Foster youth will be included in as many decisions that impact their experiences while in care, as well as their transitioning out of care as possible;
- The foster care system will engage mothers and fathers, as well as legal guardians and custodians, as much as possible and value their input;;
- When the state's foster care system assumes the care of the child, the foster care system owes the child the same level of care as a parent;
- Whenever possible, evidence-based and promising practices will be used;
- The foster care system will strive to provide services to address the underlying causes of untreated parental trauma; and
- Services will be strength based and family focused.