

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

THE FAMILY RECOVERY COLLABORATIVE:

**A Collaboration between Substance Abuse, Child Welfare,
Dependency Courts, and Tribal Systems**

Statement of Shared Values and Guiding Principles

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The mission of the Family Recovery Collaborative is to improve outcomes for children and families affected by substance use by enhancing collaboration among child welfare, substance use services, juvenile court, and tribal systems.

To this end, the Family Recovery Collaborative establishes the following shared values and guiding principles:

- No one organization or system can address all of the substance use problems facing families and communities. Ensuring child safety and family health requires collaboration and partnership among families, professionals, agencies, organizations, and communities.
- Effective collaboration requires that individuals, families, systems, and communities value differences and diverse perspectives but seek to establish a common purpose that creates a shared vision for their community.
- Families experiencing alcohol and other drug problems often share histories of violence and trauma. Our systems should seek to work together in an integrated approach to minimize the possibility of further trauma and abuse.
- Every parent who has an alcohol or other drug problem should have a fair shot at recovery with timely and comprehensive treatment within their community. Every child who is experiencing their own alcohol and other problems, either directly or indirectly, should also have fair access to treatment and recovery.
- Services should be family-focused and needs-driven, utilizing best practices. Services should respect culture and language at all levels. Service standards must be quality-driven and maintained through a commitment to life-long learning.
- Every child has a right to be free of abuse and neglect, and a child's developmental needs takes precedence over the timing of parental recovery.
- Safety and permanency are the birthright of every child in our community. The goals of the child welfare system and its partners are to support safe, nurturing, and permanent families for children within their community – where possible within the biological family and where not possible with another permanent family.