MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Partnership For Children's Behavioral Health

In order to create a unified and integrated behavioral health services system for all children, youth and their families, the undersigned commit their respective agencies to the following:

1) The commissioners and directors of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Office of Juvenile Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, and the State Department of Education will actively participate in an interagency governing board created on this date and known hereafter as the Partnership for Children's Behavioral Health. They will serve personally rather than through designees. In addition, they will serve alongside other agencies and individuals as outlined below:

A. Secretary of Health
B. A State Representative to be appointed annually by the Speaker of the House
C. A Senator to be appointed annually by the Senate Pro Tempore
D. Five family representatives to be appointed annually by the Governor
   i. Oklahoma Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
   ii. National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
   iii. Three family members at large representing multicultural groups to assure cultural diversity

2) The Partnership for Children’s Behavioral Health will work closely with the State Team for the Oklahoma Systems of Care Initiative to create a structure and process for a unified system providing for a continuum of behavioral health care for all children, youth and their families. Together, they will carefully choose a financing and management structure and begin implementation of said structure within one year from the signing of this Memorandum.

3) Once a financing and management structure is in place, the Partnership for Children’s Behavioral Health will monitor the system to ensure continuous improvements. Focus on improvements will initially be at the high-risk end of the continuum of care. An additional emphasis at the prevention and early intervention end of the continuum will be added as soon as possible in the process. The Partnership will be looking for the following outcomes:

A. Increased days at home (Reduced days in all residential placements)
B. Increased days in school
C. Improved grades
D. Reduced contacts with law enforcement
E. Reduced contacts with child welfare system
F. Improved daily functioning from self and family assessment
G. Better outcomes for children in State custody
H. Increased satisfaction of families with services received
I. Reduced incidents of youth risk behavior

4) The Partnership members will revise or adopt state agency policies or procedures as necessary and as approved by their respective Boards, to fulfill the goals of this Agreement.
5) This System of Care for children, youth and families will adhere to the following core values of providing services:

   A. Community-based;
   B. Child centered and Family focused; and
   C. Culturally competent.

Finally, this System of Care for children, youth and their families will include a full array of services that are easily accessible, from prevention and early intervention to the most intensive services.

Pledged this ______ day of __________, 2004, by the following:

Tom Adelson, Secretary of Health

James M. Crutcher, M.D., Commissioner
Oklahoma State Department of Health

Richard DeLaughter, Director
Office of Juvenile Affairs

Janice Hendryx, Director
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

Linda Parker, Director
Department of Rehabilitation Services

Mike Fogarty, Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Howard Hendrick, Director
Department of Human Services

Terry Cline, Ph.D., Commissioner
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Sandy Garrett, Superintendent
State Department of Education

This agreement is hereby endorsed and commended by Brad Henry, Governor, who commits the Office of Governor of the State of Oklahoma to support this agreement in order to achieve the best outcomes possible for Oklahoma's children and youth who are experiencing emotional disturbance. Oklahomans want our children to remain at home in their own communities, safely and successfully, with hope for the future.

Brad Henry, Governor