Structural Models of an Interagency Governance and Service Delivery System

In order to illustrate how an interagency governance and service delivery system might be structured, this appendix offers two models. The first model, the Collaborative Children’s Services Model, is one in which services are coordinated among the participating agencies that serve children and families. In this model, the participating county departments meet on a regular basis to plan policies, protocols, services, and develop a coordinated service plan for children in need of a multi-agency approach.

In contrast, the second model, the Structurally Integrated Children’s Services Model, is one in which the county has created an integrated organizational structure where a single administrative entity is responsible for children’s services. Administrators, managers, supervisors, and staff are all under a single “umbrella,” and may all be located at a single site. In addition, staff receives cross training in the responsibilities of staff working in the other county agencies integrated into the system.

As noted in the manual, there is no single structure that is “best” for implementing the CSOC. Each county must develop a structure that is appropriate to their particular needs and circumstances.