

## Desired Outcomes

- To get people talking about the system and to gain an understanding of its relationships
- To build an integrated system of care for West Virginia families
- To identify other groups working on children's issues
- To increase collaboration that results in efficient and effective services
- To maximize the use of resources
- To identify gaps and duplication of services
- To keep our children and youth in West Virginia

## Steps of Change

### Assessment — Why is it important?

Assesment is important to identify the needs and strengths of families and of our communities, our regions and our state.

### Planning — Why is it important?

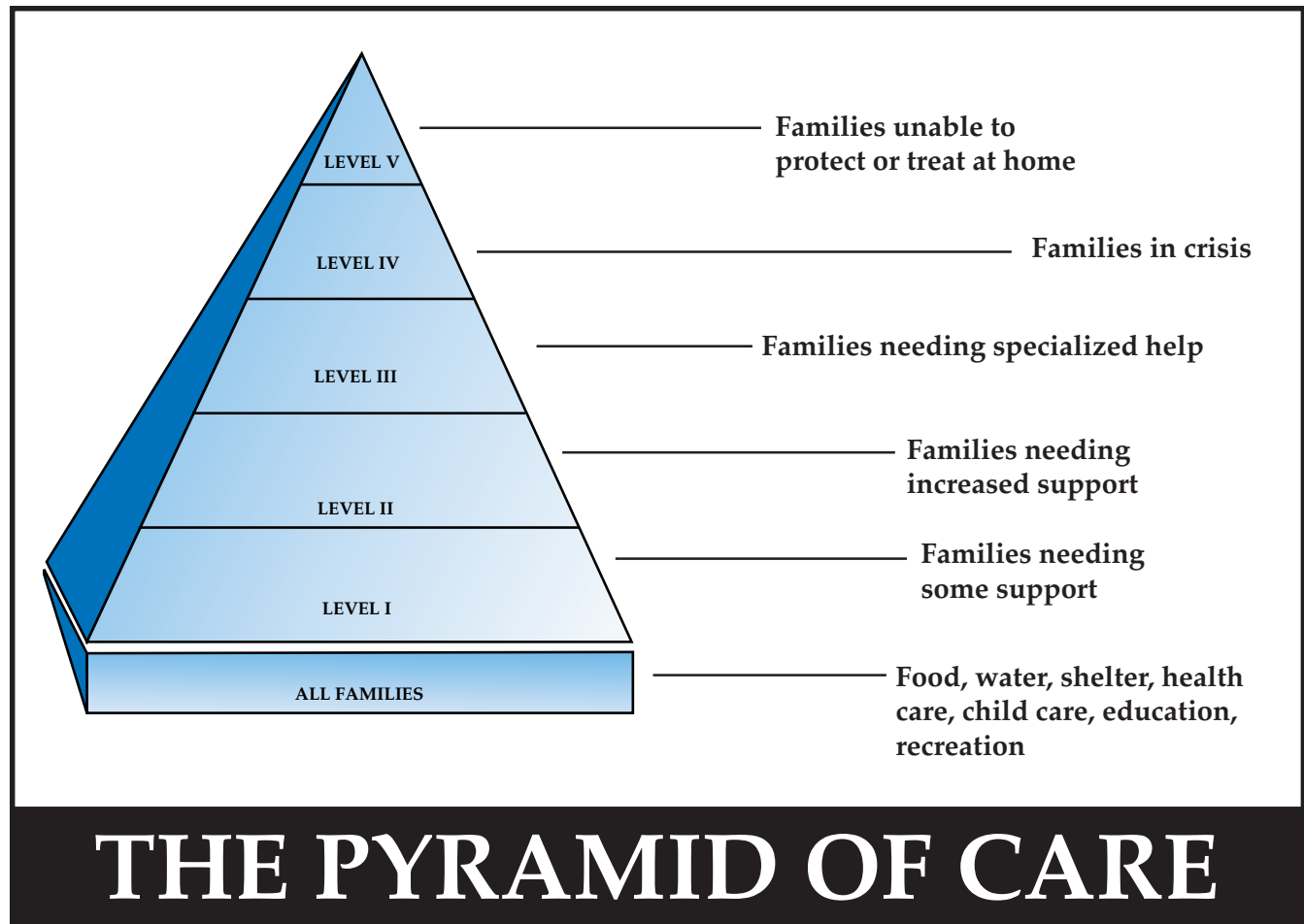
Planning is important so that we know how we will work together to use our strengths and resources to meet our needs. This is true of our families and our local communities, our regions and our state.

### Implementation — Why is it important?

Implementation is important because the best plans ever written are not ever any good unless we do what we said we would. Implementing the plan is how we get the work done, for our families, our communities, our regions, and our state.

### Evaluation — Why is it important?

Evaluation is important so that we figure out what works well and what needs to be improved, so that we can start all over again.



The Pyramid of Care, including the Balanced System of Care, is based on the philosophy of moving resources from more intensive to less intensive services wherever possible. It also provides a framework for assessing which services may best meet the needs of an individual child and family, the families in a particular community, and the families in a specific region of the state. From this point of view, it is important to note that:

- The levels are used to categorize services, not the people they serve.
- A child and/or family may receive services from more than one level simultaneously.
- There will always be a need for some crisis-oriented, intensive services.

The Pyramid of Care may also be used to educate communities and regional and state groups about the full array of services and the imperative to build, fund and utilize community and family support services statewide to relieve the pressure for crisis treatment and out-of home care.

**The Pyramid of Care is a proposed way of improving services for children and families by:**

- getting families the help they need sooner
- giving families choices in services
- making it easier to locate needed services in their community
- focusing resources on prevention and early intervention
- empowering families to build on their strengths
- eventually decreasing the need for crisis services
- providing a tool to look at and make decisions about what services are needed in our system

