

Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center Girl-Centered Principles

Our mission is guided by girl-centered principles.

- Acknowledges girls as experts of their lives and relationships.
- Embraces sitting where the girls sit and seeing what they see.
- Honors and values girls' lived experiences, knowledge, culture, ethnicity, and language.
- Understands health as more than and different from the absence of illness.
- Emphasizes the importance of girls' connections (family, friends, schools, and others).
- Recognizes the dynamic community in which girls live, play, and learn.
- Focuses on the intersectionality of gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality, age, ability, and education.
- Uses reflective practice and listening without judging.
- Ensures that programs are guided by gender relevant theories.
- Promotes activism and informed advocacy.

Note: Developed with Dr. Barbara Guthrie, RN, PhD, FAAN

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| Community Need | Policy Center Response | Description |
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| Service Delivery (Prevention) | Girl Matters: It's elementary school-based interventions | Services provided in schools to interrupt school disconnection include individual care management and referrals to appropriate resources, groups for girls, mentoring and skill building, and or advocacy within the school system regarding academic and disciplinary matters. |
| Service Delivery (Prevention) | Girls Leadership Council | The Council is open to girls, age 12-21, and provides a bi-monthly meeting to promote confidence, leadership, knowledge, and safety. |
| Service Delivery (Intervention) | SAVVY Sister Groups for Girls | Groups for girls are intended to increase girls' knowledge and coping skills to address girls' pathways into the juvenile justice system. Each topic addresses safety with self, with others, in the program, and in the community. Girls explore both their personal and societal values. Additionally, they learn and practice important skills including communication, building relationships, activism, and team building. |
| Service Delivery (Intervention) | Care Management | Care management includes crisis intervention, individual level advocacy to have access to appropriate resources, monitoring of the quality of services, mentoring, transitional and re-entry services, housing, employment support, school connectedness and re-engagement, and advocacy at multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings. This includes helping girls as they transition back to the community and their families. Care managers also help girls and families navigate the legal process, which can include arranging pro-bono legal services when warranted. |
| Service Delivery (Intervention) | Girl-Centered Counseling and Telemental Health | Individual and family counseling is provided with girls who are referred due to their juvenile justice involvement (e.g. probation) or risk of involvement. Sessions focus on discovering and dealing with the relational disconnections driving her behavior, which creates difficulties for the girl (internalizing and externalizing behaviors). Girls are part of care planning, which focuses on the ability of girls to articulate coping mechanisms, learn, and employ healthy coping skills. |
| Research | Girl-Centered Inquiry | Ongoing inclusion of girls' experiences, recommendations through listening sessions, assessments, and surveys, which inform service delivery, continued research, and advocacy for shifts in public |

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| Training | Community-based Training | Based on research, information shared by girls and community needs, trainings are developed or experts are brought in to train professionals in our community. |
| Training/Advocacy | Girl-Centered Practice | The Policy Center is one of the first organizations to collaborate with a local university to develop a continuing education curriculum focused on Girl-Centered Practice and Development of Advocacy skills. |
| Advocacy | System Level Advocacy | Work with local, state, and national lawmakers and lobbyists to develop policies that advance the rights of girls. |
| Advocacy | Community Level Advocacy | Care managers advocate on behalf of the girls with probation officers, the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office by increasing awareness of Policy Center practice model and developing a contextual understanding of girls' behaviors. |
| Advocacy | Individual Level Advocacy | Advocacy for girls provided during multidisciplinary staffing, in court, in school, and with families/caregivers. Care managers also help girls and their families navigate the complex legal system. |