

# **Key Values and Principles That Serve As the Foundation of A Person-Centered System for The Department of Health and Human Services**

[A person-centered system involves person-centered thinking,  
planning and organizations.]

*These guiding principles apply to the system serving all people who need long term services and supports, and their families. A person-centered system acknowledges the role of families or guardians in planning for children/youth and for adults who need assistance in making informed choices.*

## **To be person-centered means:**

(1)

- Treating individuals and family members with dignity and respect
- Helping individuals and families become empowered to set and reach their personal goals

(2)

- Recognizing the right of individuals to make informed choices, and take responsibility for those choices and related risks
- Building on the strengths, gifts, talents, skills, and contributions of the individual and those who know and care about the individual

(3)

- Fostering community connections in which individuals can develop relationships, learn, work/produce income, actively participate in community life and achieve their full potential

(4)

- Promising to listen and to act on what the individual communicates
- Pledging to be honest when trying to balance what is important to and important for the person

(5)

- Seeking to understand individuals in the context of their age, gender, culture, ethnicity, belief system, social and income status, education, family, and any other factors that make them unique
- Acknowledging and valuing families and supporting their efforts to assist family members

(6)

- Recognizing and supporting mutually respectful partnerships among individuals, their families, communities, providers and professionals (think about all the people and resources in their life)

(7)

- Advocating for laws, rules and procedures for providing services, treatment, and supports that meet an individual's needs and honor personal goals
- Endorsing responsible use of public resources to assure that qualified individuals are served fairly and according to need