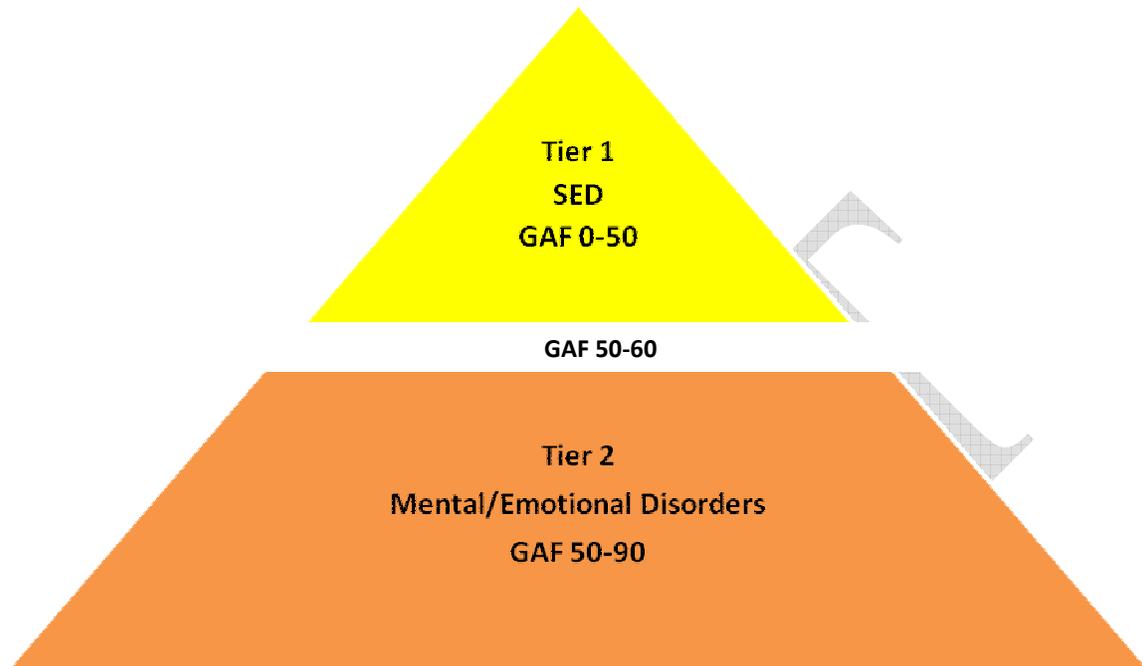


Behavioral Health System Children's Levels of Care



Assessment of impaired functioning at age appropriate levels and difficulty with age appropriate role performance is achieved by the administration of the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF). Two tiers, based upon GAF ratings, will be used in determining levels of care for individuals with a DSM IV diagnosis. Family and caregiver input should be considered an essential element in the evaluation process and determination of level of functioning. To qualify for Tier 1 (SED, higher level of need), the client must meet a rating of 50 or below. Those between 50 and 90 will qualify for Tier 2 (Mental/Emotional Disorder, lower level of need). Clinician discretion and caregiver input will be used to assign GAF scores and in determining into which tier an individual with a GAF score between 50 and 60 should be placed.