

PUBLIC ACT 13-178

An Act Concerning the Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health Of Youths

Progress Report on the Development of a Statewide Children's Behavioral Health Plan

I. Overview

A. Overarching Goal: *To meet the behavioral health needs of all children in the state and to prevent or reduce the long-term negative impact on children of mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues.*

B. Objectives

1. Plan will be comprehensive in scope
2. Inclusive of system-involved and non-system involved youth
3. Integrated and inclusive of multiple child-serving agencies and systems

C. DCF Governance

1. DCF will oversee plan development and implementation
2. DCF Commissioner to submit plan to Governor and standing committees having cognizance of matters related to children and appropriations
3. Final draft of Plan will be completed in October 2014 with an implementation progress reports on October 1, 2015, and biennially thereafter.

D. Plan Development & Input Gathering

1. Facilitated via DCF subcontract with the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI)
2. Developed with broad stakeholder input
3. Overseen by Steering Team (DCF, CHDI, Yale University, FAVOR)
4. Informed by an Advisory Committee

E. Overarching Framework

1. Plan will provide an overview of the current system with recommendations for systems integration, change and improvement across the continuum of care
2. Plan will focus on broad spectrum of needed prevention, early intervention, intervention and aftercare that comprise a comprehensive system of care
3. Plan will attend to needs of all children with an emphasis on universal, selected, and indicated approaches to promote healthy development for Connecticut's children

II. Summary of Information Gathering Process

A. Multiple Sources of Input

1. Twelve Facilitated Discussions (220 participants)
2. Six Open Forums (232 participants)
3. 26 Community Conversations (339 adults, 94 youth)
4. Public Input through website (www.plan4children.org)
60+ input forms received
5. Review of Existing Data and Reports
6. Input from Advisory Committee Meetings

B. Emerging Themes

1. Prevention, Early Identification, and Early Intervention
2. Comprehensive Continuum of Care
3. Coordination of Care and Linkages among Child-Serving Systems
4. Financing and the Role of Commercial Insurance
5. Data Collection, Evaluation, and Quality Improvement
6. Workforce Development
7. Family and Youth Engagement
8. Meeting Needs of Diverse Populations

III. Next Steps

A. Data Analysis and Synthesis

Given the extended input gathering process, this phase of plan development has commenced and is ongoing.

B. Development of Overarching Framework

Multiple data sources and recommendations will be incorporated into an overarching framework.

C. Summary of Findings with Key Recommendations

Recommendations will be prioritized and presented with a summary of the plan.

D. Writing and Review Process

1. Writing Team develops first full draft; Reviewed by Advisory Committee; Edits and revisions completed
2. Commissioner Katz review and comments; Revisions by writing team and Advisory Committee
3. Plan draft posted to plan website; Edits and revisions incorporated by Writing Team and Advisory Committee
4. Final review and submission by Commissioner Katz (October 2014)