

Regional framework for youth with complex mental health needs

Metro-area and partner counties are working together to improve the continuum of care, serving county-involved youth with a whole-person, cross-system approach.

Policy proposals

As this effort begins, we have identified several legislative policy changes that have both immediate and longer-term impacts on maximizing capacity and getting care for the young people who need it.

Licensing and certification

Establish a legislative task force including the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Corrections (DOC), Direct Care and Treatment (DCT), counties, providers and community members to provide specific licensing standards for unique levels of care, for children's residential mental health facilities covered under Minn. R. 2960.0580 to 2960.0690.

Allow an exception to the current moratorium on youth beds to expand capacity of licensed child foster residence settings, adding placement options for least restrictive treatment options (disability waiver system).

Modify Minn. R. 2960.0710 regarding training for restrictive procedures licenses to be trauma-responsive and include culturally appropriate and responsive practices.

Medicaid benefit policy

Inmate Exclusion/Reentry Waiver

Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to prioritize full implementation of the federal direction under the Consolidated Appropriation Act (CAA), requiring states to provide certain health care services for eligible youth incarcerated in correctional institutions.

Crisis Stabilization Benefit

Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to expedite the implementation of the benefit "residential crisis stabilization for children."

Reimbursement rate structure

Require DHS to begin phased implementation of the 2023 non-residential rate study recommendations by July 1, 2025.

Require DHS to conduct a review of the financial model for residential children's facilities by July 1, 2026.

Create a temporary fund for the existing seven children's residential treatment facilities until the financial review offers guidance for the administration by host counties.

Funding the regional framework

The participating counties are each committed to partnering in the continuum of services. To fill the most pressing gaps and shortages, we are seeking some immediate short-term funding to narrow service gaps, offer critical programming and support the build out of the regional framework.

Areas of identified need include:

- **Stabilizing staff**

Incentives, training, rate increases, and support for critical front-line and clinical staff.

- **Funding programming and services**

Funding for community provider programming in juvenile detention centers or shelters, as well as care coordination with community mental health for transitions out of care.

- **Supporting facilities and providers**

Maximizing capacity and effectiveness in existing facilities; supporting temporary rate increase for children's residential facilities.

- **Building out the regional continuum of care framework**

Framework planning and development of implementation road map; data sharing model.

- **Addressing gap funding for operational costs for crisis stabilization center**

Reimbursement for operational costs for Hennepin County's crisis stabilization center until Medicaid benefit is in place.

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