

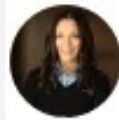
Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative

MONTHLY PROGRESS

June 2023

OVERVIEW

Announced by Governor JB Pritzker in March 2022, the Initiative aims to improve the delivery of behavioral health services to children and adolescents with significant and complex challenges, as well as to streamline and simplify the ways in which families can access resources, services, and supports for the youth in their care. The Blueprint for Transformation, released in February 2023, will guide the state in improving the children's behavioral health service system in Illinois. This work is led by Dr. Dana Weiner, a clinical psychologist and child welfare expert with decades of experience in improving the functioning of public systems and increasing access to services for children and families.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the three months since the public release of the [Blueprint for Transformation](#), the team has been busy! Our work has included many conversations to present the plan to stakeholder groups, discuss policy changes with legislators, and engage informed participants in Implementation Workgroups that will guide the translation of recommendations to real changes in service planning, coordination, and delivery. In this update, we describe how the project is moving from plan to reality and invite participation from others who want to get involved.

Each of the 12 Blueprint recommendations will be implemented in four stages, to help us develop the detailed Implementation Plan due to the Governor's office on October 1, 2023. The four stages are:

- 1) Design – Engage stakeholders to develop specifications
- 2) Plan – Develop staffing, technology, and program plans
- 3) Install – Test, train, and raise awareness for new developments
- 4) Implement – Adopt new processes, monitor, and refine

Did You Know...

Senate Bill 724 provides foundation for the following:

1. Creating a public-facing, centralized intake portal housed at DHS to triage cases, manage information, and provide parents with guidance to access state programs (Sec. 11.4).
2. Broadening supports and length of placement without custody provided by Comprehensive Community Based Youth Support (CCBYS) to youth in crisis to prevent entry to child welfare or juvenile detention (Sec. 17).
3. Modifying the Community and Residential Services Authority to operate as a Parent/Guardian Navigator Assistance Program (Sec. 14-15.01.b).
4. Requiring ISBE to build the foundation for annual mental health screenings for students in grades K-12 by conducting a one-time landscape scan of current district-wide screening practices (Sec. 2-3.196).
5. Requiring all residential and institutional providers who receive reimbursement for children's mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services from HFS, DHS, DJJ, ISBE, or DCFS to submit staffing and occupancy numbers to the State for the purpose of establishing state need and placement availability (Sec. 5.b-5).
6. Requiring HFS to identify leading indicators for elevated behavioral crisis risk and share them with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and other HFS care coordination entities (Sec. 5-30.1.h-5).



Coordination

The Interagency Crisis Staffing Workgroup, comprised of representatives from the six partner agencies, meets regularly to address the urgent and emerging needs of young people who need residential placements. Using the Interagency Intake Portal, introduced in June, 2022 the team has resolved 48% of cases using a blend of creative strategies, funding streams, provider partnerships and dedication. The Transformation Initiative is in the process of developing an updated portal (“the Portal”) to further build on these improvements. Buttressed by other technological tools, the Portal will serve as a centralized landing place for families, school counselors, and anyone seeking services for children with significant and complex needs to identify the least restrictive services for a young person, link them with those services, and track the capacity of the service providers.

Engagement

Our approach establishes four areas of work, each operating simultaneously along parallel trajectories to execute the vision for transformation:

- 1) **Community and schools**, focused on workforce development; fortifying community networks; and preparing to implement mental health screenings in schools and pediatricians’ offices.
- 2) **Programs and providers**, focused on clarifying and streamlining the way State agencies partner with providers as well as expanding program services and eligibility.
- 3) **Technological infrastructure**, focused on building and installing the tools to centralize and streamline processes, interagency communication, and access to services.
- 4) **Data and fiscal elements**, focused on coordinated pricing and consistent system tracking to improve agility in responding to the needs of families with an appropriate and adequate supply of services.



Coming soon – your input!

We welcome anyone who is interested to engage with us. If you have lived experience or other expertise that would provide insight, we encourage you to get involved in any way, from sending us feedback to attending regular implementation meetings.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION about the **Children’s Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative** please contact **Dana.A.Weiner@Illinois.gov**