Children’s Mental Health Work Group

Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee

January 17, 2020

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Established in 2016 legislation, the CMHWG’s work is focused on:

- Identifying barriers to and opportunities for behavioral health services and strategies for children, youth and young adults (preadtial to age 25 years old) and their families that are:
  - Accessible
  - Effective
  - Timely
  - Culturally and linguistically relevant
  - Supported by evidence

- Advising the Legislature on statewide behavioral health services and recommended improvements.

- Monitoring enacted legislation, programs, and policies.
- Work group established E2SHB 2439
- Report and recommendations December 2016

- Provider reimbursement for depression screens
- Care coordination and network adequacy requirements
- Child psychiatry residency
- Pilot behavioral health leads at ESDs
- Behavioral health consultation for child care providers E2SHB 1713
- Paperwork reduction requirements E2SHB 1819

- Maternal depression - Same-day consultation line and support to health care providers SSB 6452
- Strategy for Medicaid funding for infant home visiting
  Additional child psychiatry residency
- Pilot mental health literacy curriculum for students E2SHB 2779

- First episode psychosis New Journeys programs statewide
- Social-emotional learning in schools
  Additional coaching for early achievers child care providers
- Additional child psychiatry residencies 2SSB 5903
- Family-initiated treatment E2SHB 1874
- Pilot PAL for Schools, including behavioral health education ESHB 1109

2016  2017  2018  2019
CBHWG and subgroups

The work group met four times during the interim.

In addition, five subgroups, that included CMHWG members and others, met and developed recommendations in these areas:

- Partnership Access Line (PAL) – development of funding model
- Prenatal to age five relational health
- Family Initiated Treatment (E2SHB 1874, 2019) – follow up recommendations
- Workforce (serving prenatal to age 25)
- Student well-being and school-based supports, including connections to behavioral health and intellectual developmental disabilities [IDD] services and supports
2020 recommendations

Partnership Access Line Funding Model

- A CMHWG sub-committee convened during the 2019 interim per 2SSSB 5903.
- The sub-committee developed a funding model recommendation for the behavioral health consultation and referral services (PAL lines).
- The model includes:
  - Partnership Access Line, started in 2008
  - PAL for Moms (2 year pilot – January 2019 through June 2021)
  - Referral Assistance Line (2 year pilot – January 2019 through June 2021)
  - Tele-behavioral Health Call Center/Psychiatry Consultation Line (PCL) which started 7-1-19
- PAL for Moms and the Referral Assist Line will be added to the funding model if and when they become permanent programs.
2020 recommendations

Partnership Access Line Funding Model (cont.)

- Commercial carriers will be assessed the non-Medicaid costs.
- HCA will pay administrative costs associated with assessment.
- The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee will conduct an evaluation of the PAL for Moms and Referral Assist Line.
  - Performance measures will be developed for each of these programs, with requirements for quarterly reporting.
2020 recommendations

Renew the workgroup

- Change name officially to include “behavioral” health
- Include transition age youth in scope
- Add youth voice to the workgroup

Add standing subgroups:

- School-based Services and Suicide Prevention
- Add standing Family, Youth, and System Partner Roundtable Resolution
2020 budget recommendations

- Fund behavioral health navigators in all nine Educational Service Districts.
- Provide flexible funds for clinician training and mentoring.
- Increase behavioral health counseling and psychotherapy and care coordination rates by eight percent, or the Medicare rate, whichever is higher, for all settings.
- Analyze the impact of changing Medicaid policy to match best practices for mental health assessment for infants and children to age five.
- Extend PAL funding for Mom and the PAL Referral Assistance Line for Kids pilots (January 2020 - June 2021) to avoid early termination.
Themes of the CBHWG

- Overarching theme of ensuring equity, diversity, inclusion and trauma informed approaches in all services, training, and system design
- Developmentally appropriate services in the “0 – 25” age group
- Cross system coordination
- Network adequacy
- Workforce
- Provider rates
More information

- CMHWG Co-Chair: MaryAnne Lindeblad
- CMHWG Co-Chair: Representative Frame
- Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/behavioral-health-recovery/childrens-mental-health-workgroup-cmhwg
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