Priority 1: Inclusion of the 2020 budget proviso [SB 6168, Sec. 211(78), 2020] to increase Medicaid rates for behavioral health services to retain workforce and ensure access. (Passed in 2020 legislative session for 2021 fiscal year; then vetoed as part of pandemic response.)

Senate Bill 5092 (operating budget):

- $6.5M General Funds-State (GFS)/$17.509M total (includes federal funding through Medicaid). For children and adults, increases provider rates for behavioral health services by 15% (not to exceed the Medicaid rate) for individual, family and group therapy related to a primary medical diagnosis; assessment, and other behavioral health supports, effective October 1, 2021.

- $17.016M GFS/$55.041M total. Continue 2% increase in Medicaid reimbursements that was provided in April 2021 to community behavioral health providers contracted through managed care organizations, with HCA employing mechanisms such as directed payment to assure that providers receive these increases.

Continue funding the “Washington State Mental Health Referral Service for Children and Teens” which helps families find providers that accept their insurance, and PAL for Moms, which supports physicians treating postpartum depression.

House Bill 1325 establishes these services as permanent programs.

Senate Bill 5092 provides funding:

Priority 2: Expand youth mobile crisis services statewide and ensure existing teams can meet increased demand.

Senate Bill 5092: $25.848M GFS/$38.579M total* for adult and youth mobile crisis services. A minimum of 6 new youth teams will be established so each region has at least one by June 30, 2022.

Priority 3: Change Medicaid policy to match best practices for mental health assessment and diagnosis of children 0-5, including allowing 3-5 sessions for intake/assessment, in children’s homes and other natural settings.

House Bill 1325 and Senate Bill 5092: $1.079M GFS/$1.257M Total.

Priority 4: Establish a workgroup to develop a behavioral health teaching clinic enhancement rate.

Senate Bill 5092: $150K GFS/Total. HCA to convene a work group to develop a recommended teaching clinic enhancement rate for behavioral health agencies training and supervising students and those seeking their certification or license.

Priority 5:

- Expand the Student Loan Repayment Program and reduce existing barriers within the program.
  Senate Bill 5092: $8.25M GFS/Total. Provides additional funds for behavioral health students.

- Preserve and expand existing investments in infant and early childhood mental health consultation.
  Senate Bill 5092 and the Fair Start Act (Senate Bill 5237): $2.4M GFS/Total. Adds 6 additional mental health consultants.

- Establish a complex needs fund to expand access to consultant support for behavioral health challenges of children ages 0-5.
  Senate Bill 5092 and the Fair Start Act (Senate Bill 5237): $5.07 GFS/$9.674 Total. Includes support for childcare and ECEAP, and early ECEAP providers.

Priority 6: Direct the Health Care Authority (HCA) to explore Medicaid waiver options for respite care for youth with behavioral health challenges, without adversely impacting the respite waivers for children and youth in the foster care system and for children and families enrolled with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

Senate Bill 5092: $150,000 GFS/Total.
**Priority 7:** Expand availability of youth and family peer services across the continuum of care, reduce barriers to entry and retention, enhance diversity, and ensure peers are supported in their recovery.

*Senate Bill 5092 provides the following (with no specifications around adult vs. children, youth and family peer services):*

- $1.762M in one-time funding to maintain and increase resources for peer support programs (adult and youth) and for HCA to contract with an organization to assist with recruitment with a specific focus on black, indigenous and people of color communities.

- $250,000 for HCA to contract for the development of a specialized 40-hour crisis response training curriculum and conduct at least one statewide training session in FY 2022 and one statewide training session in FY 2023.

- $500,000 to establish an emotional support program for individuals employed as peer specialists.

**Statements of support and CYBHWG work (not prioritized)**

✔ Work with the Behavioral Health Apprenticeship Coalition to develop and implement a registered behavioral health apprenticeship model.

*Senate Bill 5092: $1.6M GFS/Total for Labor and Industries, in coordination with the Washington State Apprenticeship Training Council, to establish behavioral health apprenticeship programs.*

✔ Engage with and support the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board’s efforts to address barriers to employment created by background checks.

*Senate Bill 5092: $100,000 GF-Federal for HCA to convene a task force to examine impacts and changes proposed to the use of criminal background checks in behavioral health settings, with the goal of reducing barriers to developing and retaining a robust behavioral health workforce while maintaining patient safety measures.*

✔ Remove clinical barriers to postpartum mood and anxiety screening by supporting the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ “learning collaborative”.

*Legislation not required; work is underway.*

✔ Support the Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) decision package submitted by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

*Senate Bill 5092: $760K GFS/Total (partial funding).*

✔ Increase staffing levels in schools to support students’ social-emotional health by supporting the “Building Staffing Capacity to Support Student Well-Being” decision package submitted by OSPI.

*Senate Bill 5092: $51.568M (partial funding). Funding for an additional .5 FTE per prototypical school for high-needs schools, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.*

✔ Improve transitional care for youth discharging from inpatient behavioral health and juvenile justice settings by supporting the work of the Senate Bill 6560 work group.

*No legislation introduced in 2021 legislative session.*

✔ Support efforts to ensure that quality, affordable childcare is available and accessible (workforce issue).

*Senate Bill 5092 and the Fair Start Act (Senate Bill 5237):*

- Progressively expand eligibility for families for the Working Connections Child Care Program (WCCC) over a six-year period.
- Progressively lowers families’ copayments based on income for WCCC over a two-year period.
- As of July 1, 2021, increases childcare subsidy base rates to the 85th percentile of market for licensed or certified providers.
- As of July 1, 2026, expands eligibility for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).
- For the 2021-22 school year, ECEAP rates must be set at a level at least 10% higher than 2019-21 rates.

✔ Support development of a state implementation plan for the national 988 behavioral health crisis line, scheduled to go live in Washington in July 2022.
Support current efforts to assess and improve telehealth, including audio-only, to reduce racial and income disparities in behavioral health service access and ensure that virtual services are clinically effective and provide relief to children and families. Recommend review of data and research focused on prenatal to age 25 and development of standards of practice, with stakeholders, as well as a requirement that providers publicize the Washington Lifeline. The Washington Lifeline program offers free wireless services and cell phones to low-income families and individuals.

Support legislation requiring continuing education for behavioral health professionals in the provision of culturally responsive treatment.

*Budget bill: $187K GFS/Total. Requires professions licensed under Title 18 RCW to complete health equity continuing education training at least once every 4 years, using standards and criteria based on available research and evidence.*

The CYBHWG continues to support learning from the current partial hospitalization (PH) and intensive outpatient (IOP) pilot about how they may become part of the service continuum. (Added 12/23/2020.)

*Budget bill (): 1.8M GFS/Total to continue(?); $8.5M to expand.*

Not passed

Support Representative Lauren Davis’ bill to create a Peer Support Specialist credential, allowing peers to serve individuals with commercial insurance and work directly for hospitals and correctional institutions.