

JULY 18, 2023

Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee

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Why are we here?

- Gaps in Colorado's mental health continuum of care result in children and family involvement in the child welfare system
- Some families can feel overwhelmed and don't have the resources needed to take care of their child at home which leads to extended hospital stays and abandonment
- One of the top 3 common barriers to discharge at Children's Colorado is "caregiver threshold"



Crisis by the Numbers

In May 2021, Children's Hospital Colorado declared a State of Emergency for Youth Mental Health. The mental health crisis in Colorado continues to challenge children and families, as well as Children's Hospital Colorado's care teams and our system's capacity.

80%

US children in foster care who have significant mental health issues

23%

US children in foster care who received mental health services

103%

Increase mental health visits to CHCO emergency departments in Q1 2022 compared to the same period in 2019



FILLING THE GAPS

Children's Colorado is stepping up as a trusted community resource to help fill the gaps in Colorado's public systems.

Colorado Pediatric Psychiatry Consultation and Access Program

- **468** providers enrolled from 62 practices
- **Nearly 435k** pediatric and young adults covered
- **1,500+** phone consultations

Universal depression-screening tool

- **Dozens** of primary care practices supported through the screening tool's implementation

Autism co-management program

- **18+** community partners

Partners for Children's Mental Health program

- **206** primary care providers trained on youth suicide prevention-care pathways
- **644** community members trained in gatekeeper models

Community-provider training

- **53** virtual lunch-and-learn sessions hosted, with 520+ providers



Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO)

- **32** pediatric mental health series events hosted, reaching nearly 2,000 clinical participants



School-based consultation and training

- **70k** kids reached by our school nurse program, which provides mental health consultations across hundreds of schools and childcare centers

Healthy Kids Resiliency program

- **1,600** participants in El Paso County, a current hot spot for youth suicide

60+ community mental health education events hosted, directed toward parents, schools, coaches and other adults



OUR GOAL:
Ensure **all** kids have access to quality mental healthcare



Long-Term Investments to Build the System of Care

- **Solution A:** Support necessary budget increases to expand access to the family supports and services that keep kids in their homes and communities.
- **Solution B:** Provide sustainable, long-term funding for high-acuity residential placements to avoid losing existing capacity.
- **Solution C:** Implement a single, statewide, coordinated System of Care in Colorado for all children and youth regardless of payor, insurance, and income.



Address Gaps in Mental Health Insurance Parity

- **Solution:** Use data from the Child & Youth Mental Health Treatment Act to ensure insurance providers pay for access to the services kids need.



Prioritize Prevention & Early Intervention

- **Solution:** Continue to invest in programs such as the early childhood mental health consultation program and school-based mental health professionals.



Thank you!