
Statewide Children's Wraparound Initiative

Communication #1: September 21, 2009

Near the end of the 2009 Legislative session, Governor Kulongoski signed House Bill (HB) 2144, and the Children's Wraparound Initiative became law. This action came as a result of many years of hard work by youth, families, treatment providers, and local and state agencies. This fall, the Children's Wraparound Initiative begins the initial phase of implementation, and the Department of Human Services (DHS) is committed to keeping our partners informed every step of the way.

The beginning phase of the Children's Wraparound Initiative is to develop an integrated system of care to maximize positive outcomes for children with behavioral health care needs and who are in the custody of DHS. Many of these children have a history of adverse childhood experiences, including abuse and trauma, and are at risk for developing emotional, behavioral, and substance use related disorders. National research and experience in Oregon has demonstrated life changing benefits to an integrated approach to care.

The initiative is under the joint sponsorship of Erinn Kelley-Siel, Assistant Director for Children, Adults and Families (CAF) and Richard Harris, Interim Assistant Director for Addictions and Mental Health (AMH). Implementation will be led by Toni Peterson of CAF and Bill Bouska of AMH.

Initially efforts will focus on children, from birth to age 18, who have been in the custody of DHS for more than one year and have had at least four placements or who come into custody and immediately need specialized behavioral health services and supports.

A DHS work team has been identified and is charged with developing mechanisms to integrate service delivery including the following objectives:

- Creating a working structure to support an integrated system of care including financing and accountability structures;
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, regulations, policies, & procedures between CAF and AMH and other divisions;
- Creating a process map for what happens in the first 90 days of a child coming into DHS custody related to behavioral healthcare;
- Establishing quality and outcome measures ;
- Simplifying and standardizing documentation;
- Streamlining and standardizing assessments, treatment, and service plans between AMH and CAF;
- Creating readiness criteria for local system of care project sites;
- Simplifying the data process to gather real-time information about the quality and quantity of services being provided;
- Developing and supporting one electronic data system; and
- Creating a purchasing collaborative to pool funds across divisions.

While these objectives will take time to plan and implement, we want to outline our efforts over the next few months.



In early October, DHS project leaders will gather to finalize the draft plan for the initiative. Outcomes of this important work session will be released to our partners shortly after decisions are made. A Children's Wraparound Initiative Advisory Committee and involvement with partners will begin soon after the DHS draft plan is developed.

In late fall, DHS will release system of care project site descriptions. This will give communities the opportunity to evaluate their readiness as a system of care project site and decide if they are ready to apply. Applications will be due during the month of January 2010. A selection process has yet to be determined. Details will be made available as soon as possible.

In February, as part of HB 2144, the work group must present its findings and a progress report to the legislature. This is an opportunity for the legislature to learn from the work group and offer further direction and recommendations.

Community system of care project sites will begin to take shape in March 2010.

We all understand the magnitude of this important work, and we welcome the challenges ahead. An integrated system of care for children is crucial to the health of those we serve. Streamlining services will lead to a more efficient use of our resources and less delay for families in need.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress. Thank you for your interest and support.

For more information, please contact:

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