

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner



Jeffrey Meyers
Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

May 22, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu and Executive Councilors:

We are pleased to deliver to you Implementing a System of Care for Children's Behavioral Health in New Hampshire: Year 3 report pursuant to RSA 135-F:6. Senate Bill 534 passed in June of 2016 directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education to develop a comprehensive system of care for children's behavioral health services. A steering committee comprised of over a dozen individuals with expertise in children's behavioral health has convened numerous times over the past year to discuss the formulation of this report. With representatives from our departments as well as public school districts, community mental health centers and advocacy groups in the state, our work has been informed by a diverse group of stakeholders, and we wish to thank them for their valuable contributions. Additionally, the Endowment for Health has funded the Vulnerable Families Research Program at the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire to provide technical assistance.

This report again builds off of last year's report to look at estimates of expenditures for children's behavioral health services. This report also provides an update as to the progress made over the last year at both Departments. This work is strongly connected and integrated with other work happening at both departments including but not limited to; the 10-year Mental Health plan, the Child Welfare Transformation work, School Safety and a variety of currently pending bills.

This report represents the third of four annual reports required by RSA 135-F, we acknowledge that systemic improvements efforts are ongoing and the work of both departments over the past year and for years to come will be aimed at implementing and improving the system of care for children's behavioral health in New Hampshire.

We look forward to continued support from the State as we work towards ensuring the behavioral health of children in New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey Meyers in blue ink.

Jeffrey Meyers
Commissioner
NH Department of Health and Human Services

Handwritten signature of Frank Edelblut in black ink.

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner
NH Department of Education

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stephen Shurtleff, Speaker, NH House of Representatives
The Honorable Donna Soucy, President, NH State Senate
The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chair, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Lou D'Allesandro, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Mel Myler, Chair, House Education Committee
The Honorable Jay Kahn, Chair, Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Lucy Weber, Chair, House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee
The Honorable Tom Sherman, Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee