

Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner  
Department of Education



Lori Shibanette  
Commissioner  
Department of Health and Human Services

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

December 21, 2020

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 4 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. An Advisory Group comprised of over a hundred individuals with expertise in children's behavioral health has convened a number of times over the past year to discuss the formulation of this report and to move progress forward with expanding and enhancing the System of Care for Children's Mental Health. With representatives from our departments as well as public school districts, community mental health centers, other providers 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 Behavioral Health Innovations Institute at Keene State College to provide technical and writing assistance.

This report again builds off the last 3 year's reports 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 SB 14.

**Since the year 3 report, progress has been made in the following areas:**

- Increase in staff capacity for both DHHS and DOE
- **DHHS:**
- Care Management Entity (CME) expansion:
- Residential Treatment transformation:
  - Accreditation for current residential treatment providers has begun.
  - New Levels of care have been developed
  - Development of a conflict free comprehensive assessment for residential treatment
  - RFP developed for Residential Treatment programs: inclusive of all levels of care including a PRTF. 2 RFP's posted PRTF posted on 10/23/20 and Residential Treatment on 12/11/20.
- Standardized Behavioral Health Assessment Tool for use across the child mental health system.
- Statewide Mobile Crisis for children
- Parent information clearinghouse and treatment/support locator
- Evidenced Based Practice Technical Assistance and Training
- Infant Mental Health Plan
- Prevention/First Episode Psychosis

**DOE:**

- School Climate Transformation Grant awarded to build state infrastructure to include 1 Regional MTSS-B Consultant in South Central, South East, and South West
- System of Care grant awarded to support MTSS-B in 7 additional schools districts in collaboration with 4 Community Mental Health Centers and funding for a full time Family Engagement Coordinator
- Project AWARE expansion to include 3 additional school districts to implement MTSS-B
- Expansion of CHOOSE Love in additional schools statewide
- Preschool Development Planning Grant awarded – Strategic plan developed to create a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood care and education system
- Preschool Development Implementation Grant awarded for 3 years
- Year 2 of Project GROW Trauma Sensitive Schools Implementation in 6 school districts
- Creation of A Good Life mobile app to build and strengthen social and emotional resilience through the 40 Developmental Assets

Further details about each item noted above are included within the year 4 report.

This report represents the fourth 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 for the ongoing work in expanding the System of Care for Children's Mental Health.

Respectfully,



Lori Shubinette  
Commissioner  
Department of Health and Human Services



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner  
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