



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

December 15, 2014

Michael Marshall  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol Building  
LOCAL

Carmine Boal  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Marshall and Ms. Boal:

Enclosed please find the required report "Psychiatric Medical Institutes for Children (PMIC) Annual Report".

This report was prepared pursuant to 2011 Iowa Acts, Chapter 121, Section 9.

This report is also available on the Department of Human Services website at <http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/Partners/Reports/LegislativeReports/LegisReports.html>.

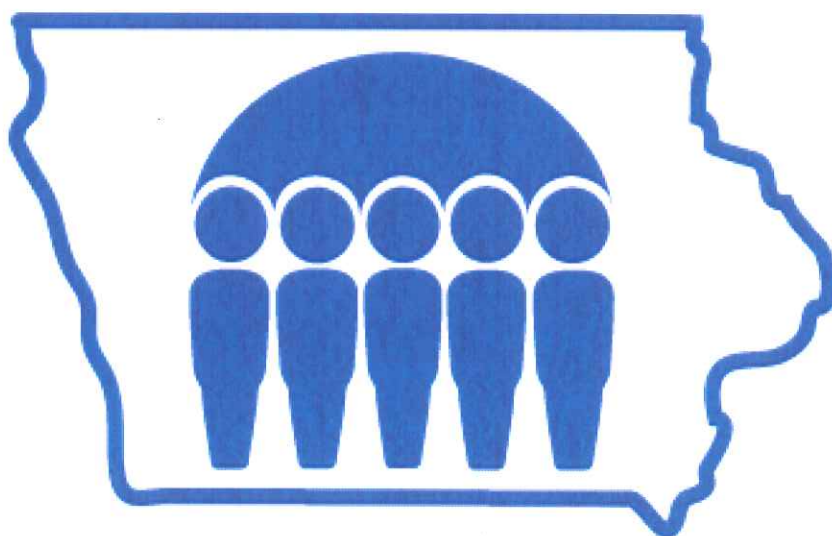
Sincerely,

Jennifer Davis Harbison  
Policy Advisor

Enclosure

cc: Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Senator Jack Hatch  
Senator David Johnson  
Representative David Heaton  
Representative Lisa Heddens  
Legislative Services Agency  
Aaron Todd, Senate Majority Staff  
Josh Bronsink, Senate Minority Staff  
Carrie Malone, House Majority Staff  
Zeke Furlong, House Minority Staff

# Iowa Department of Human Services



## *Iowa Psychiatric Medical Institutes for Children (PMIC) Annual Report*

December 2014

# *Annual PMIC Report*

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## **Executive Summary**

This report was prepared pursuant to 2011 Iowa Acts, Chapter 121, Section 9. The purpose of the report is to evaluate the status and outcomes of the Psychiatric Medical Institution for Children (PMIC) since its transition to Medicaid managed behavioral health care also known as the Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health (Iowa Plan). Magellan Behavioral Care of Iowa (Magellan) manages the Iowa Plan. The report will indicate that the PMIC program has seen improved outcomes and it is the recommendation of the Department of Human Services (DHS) that this program continue under the management of the Iowa Plan.

## **Introduction**

The transition of PMIC to the Iowa Plan occurred on July 1, 2012, without substantive changes as recommended by the PMIC Transition Committee. As a result, some PMICs have increased their ability to provide flexible services while retaining the ability for longer term residential capacity for children with high end mental health needs. As part of the Iowa Plan, PMICs have been able to include more services and discussion among clinical professionals in determining how to best meet the needs of a child.

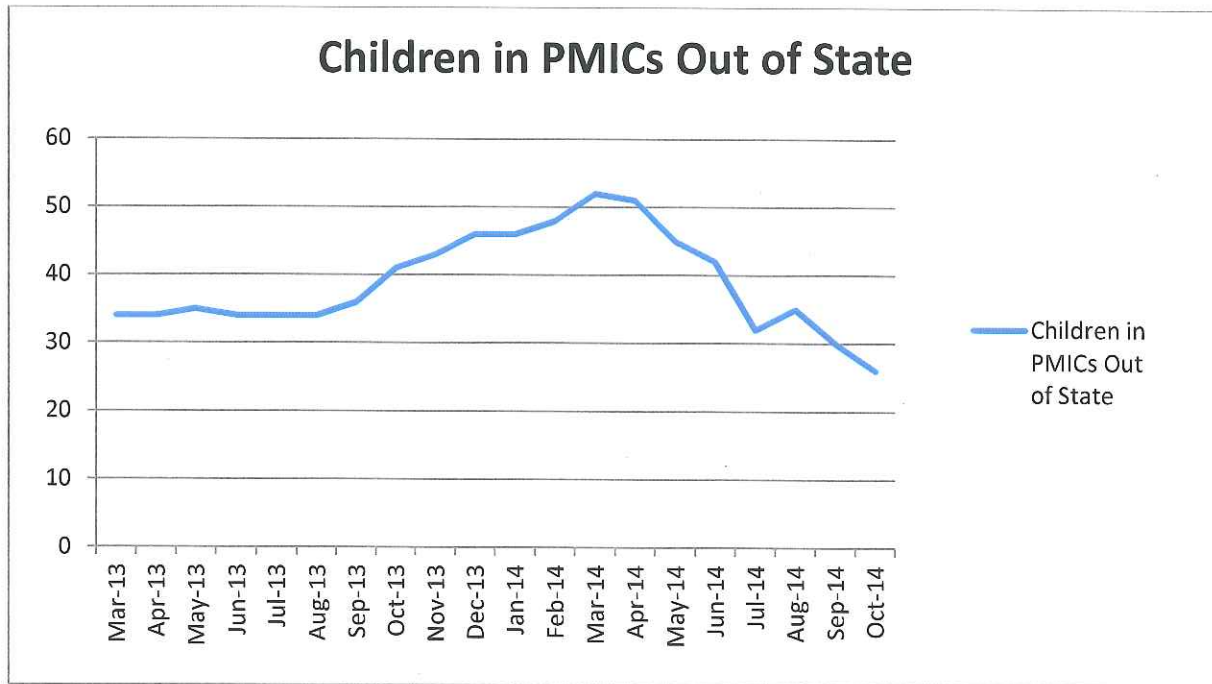
One of the goals of the transition to the Iowa Plan was to develop specialized programs for children with high acuity requirements whose needs were not met with the previous system. Since July 2012, the partnership with the PMIC providers has evolved to include practical discussions that are intended to put into place the services and supports that best support children to remain in state.

From the time period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, Magellan Behavioral Care of Iowa (Magellan) hosted 1,668 Joint Treatment Planning Conference (JTPCs) calls, and many were a result of collaborating with families and improving discharge planning for their children from PMICs. Joint Treatment Planning Conferences, a component of Intensive Care Management (ICM), is used to define case-specific treatment team roles and responsibilities, develop treatment plans, build consensus among all involved parties, and to coordinate funding for services. Typically, members of a member specific JTPC team include the member, the member's family or representative, DHS/Juvenile Court Services staff, Magellan staff (generally an ICM), other payers, and providers. For the time period of July 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014, Magellan hosted 671 JTPCs. If a child is enrolled in an Integrated Health Home (IHH), the JTPCs also include the care coordinator with the IHH Home provider that is involved with the care of the child.

## **Children Served by PMIC Providers**

From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, a total of 1,010 Iowa Plan members with a primary mental health diagnosis have been served by PMIC providers. This was an increase from the same time period the year prior, where 987 members were served. The number of children who have received services by a PMIC provider Out-of-State (OOS)

by month are demonstrated in the table below. Children who are served out-of-state tend to be those who exhibit behaviors that in-state PMIC providers feel they do not have the capability or capacity to serve. Specifically, these scenarios include those who have severe aggression behaviors, those who exhibit sexual acting-out behaviors, those who have had multiple placement failures, and those who have diagnosed Intellectual Disabilities with co-occurring mental health diagnoses. As demonstrated in the graph below, children receiving treatment OOS has decreased slightly since early 2013 as capacity has been built in-state and efforts are made to find appropriate treatment in Iowa for children needing PMIC treatment.



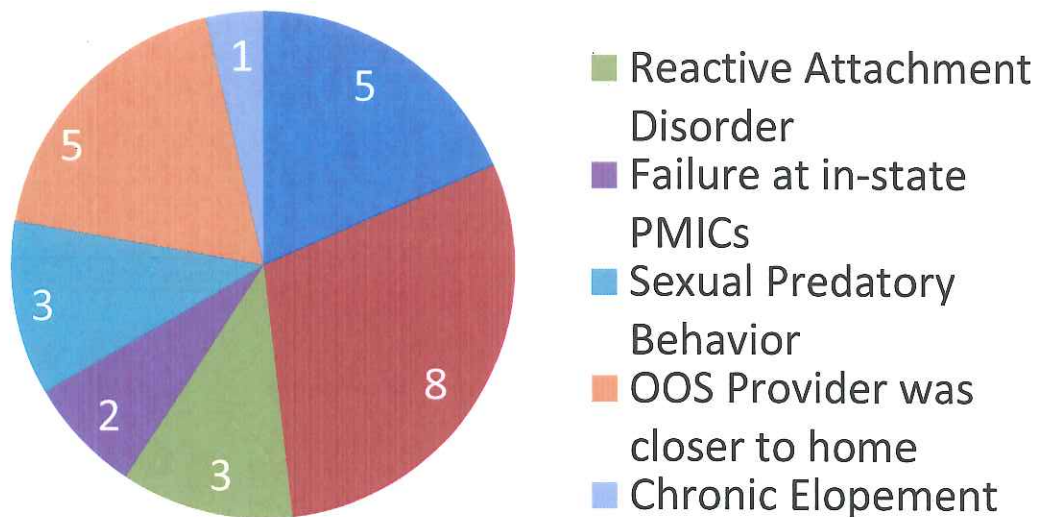
*Case Example:*

In 2011, 15 year-old boy who was seeking PMIC treatment was sent to a PMIC facility in Wisconsin. The boy presented with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, severe aggression to self and others, and other persistent mental health concerns. Because of the intensity of his symptoms, no in-state PMICs felt they could meet his needs. This child came back to an Iowa group home in 2012 and made significant clinical improvements but, once again, he needed PMIC treatment related to his continued and intense aggressions. This child then received treatment at a different out-of-state facility, and a year later was able to return to an Iowa PMIC that has assisted him in engaging with his family. In December 2014, he will turn 18 and plans to live in a community-based setting and enroll in classes at a local community college. In addition, to his progress in recovery, he has been enrolled into a local IHH that has been assisting in his plans for transitioning to community living.

Generally, Magellan's case management team is able to find placement in-state for the children who display aggression or self-harm. In instances where all in-state PMIC providers have initially declined to accept a child into their program, Magellan's PMIC supervisor will present these cases to PMIC clinical directors to discuss what services and supports are needed for the child they are discussing to remain in-state with a local PMIC. Through the work Magellan is doing to enhance these services and supports, there has been willingness by PMICs to consider accepting children into their program that would have historically been placed out of state.

## OOS Cases By Clinical Condition/Scenerio

(26 Total)



As of 10/31/14

After approaching all PMIC providers, there has been one in-state PMIC provider that has used additional funding and support from Magellan to develop their program to be trauma-informed. Through use of the community reinvestment funding from Magellan, this provider has been able to train staff to more adequately work with these children. In addition, the collaboration and professional input from Magellan has led the provider to take recommendations for services and supports, specific to each child, which can increase the likelihood of success for that child and his or her family. This provider expressed satisfaction in working with Magellan care managers to gain additional clinical input specific to each child. More importantly, they have made a commitment that when they admit children who display more difficult behaviors they will work with Magellan to dedicate all their resources to working towards a positive outcome in order to keep children from leaving the State. Resources utilized by the provider include:

- Completing trauma-informed assessments.
- Having specialized and individualized treatment planning based on the assessment.
- Offering intensive trauma-informed training.
- Adding additional staff to meet the needs of these children.
- Working with Magellan to negotiate additional funding based on an individualized clinical plan for this child to assist the provider in making these changes.

In March 2014, another Iowa PMIC provider was able to designate a portion of their PMIC beds to specialize in serving children who have diagnosed Intellectual Disabilities that co-occur with their mental health diagnoses. This has helped in finding a more appropriate treatment facility for some children and has been a diversion for some children who would have otherwise gone out of state for treatment. In addition, some children who were out-of-state were able to come back to Iowa to this facility in order to start better aligning family and local resources for the child's return to the community. Because this provider is located in state, they are more aware of the local resources that exist and can start connecting the family to those services in their home communities.

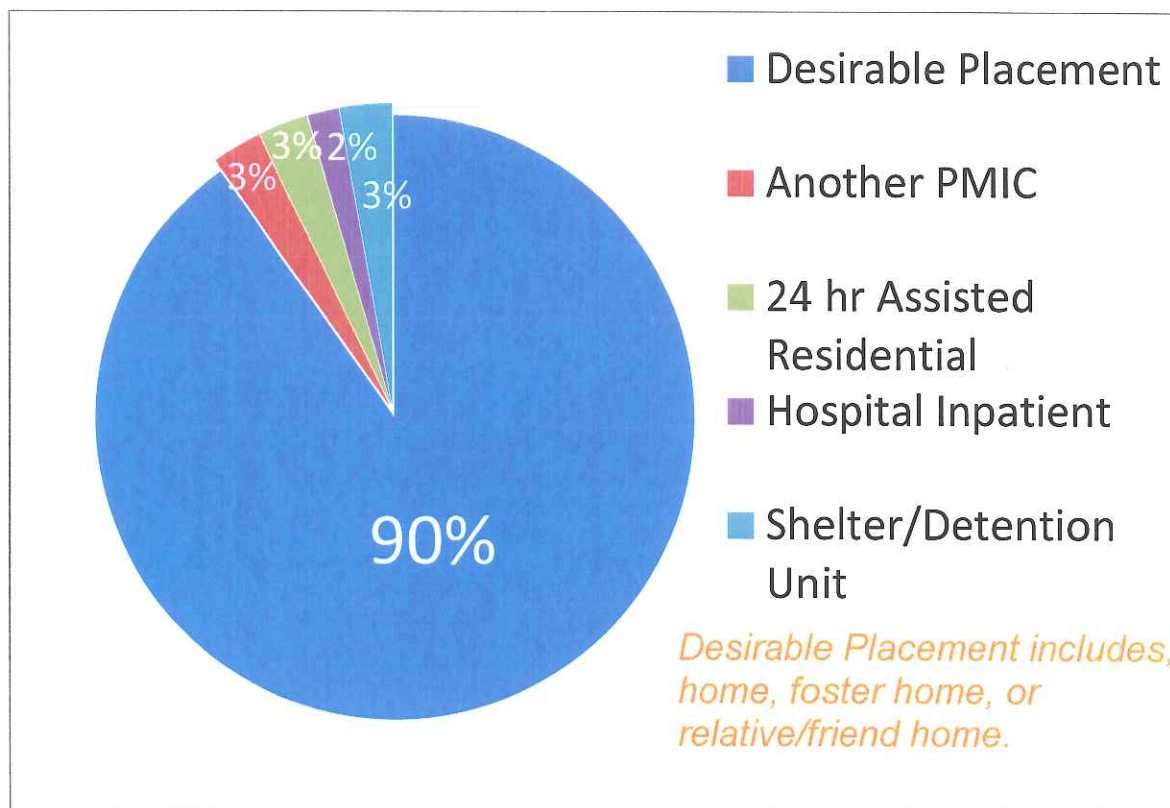
In 2013, Magellan implemented an improved process for getting DHS/Juvenile Court Officer (JCO) referrals. Referral packets from DHS and JCOs are now sent to Magellan rather than directly to PMIC admission staff. Once the packet is complete, the clinical information is reviewed by a Magellan care manager within one business day, and if clinical criteria are met it is preauthorized for admission. Completed packets are sent to PMICs for consideration of admission with an expectation that they give Magellan a decision within 10 days of receiving the packet. Since this process began in August 2013, Magellan has processed over 200 applications to improve efficiencies within the referral process. The average length of time from PMIC approval by Magellan to the time a PMIC has been identified for the admission is 6 days. The time for getting a completed packet varied greatly prior to implementing this process. Packets were often missing information and would result in added time spent collecting information and communicating repeatedly with the referral source. Through this improvement in process, packets returned are completed and any additional information needed is sought out by Magellan immediately. Feedback from JCOs and PMICs has been very positive and these efforts will continue to ensure a more seamless referral process among stakeholders.

The length of time between identifying a PMIC placement and the PMIC admission was 14 days for the timeframe of August 1, 2013 to October 31, 2014. This process also avoids excessive wait times for children who do not meet the clinical criteria for PMIC treatment. Now, when a PMIC gets a packet, Magellan has already approved the stay and the PMIC will only need to contact Magellan at arrival – no additional preauthorization is needed.

### **Discharge Locations and Community-based Services**

A critical piece is that Magellan monitors where children are discharged to following a PMIC placement. One specific measure tracks how many children were discharged to a "desired living arrangement". This is defined as the resident of the parent, adoptive parent, guardian, or for minors in the custody of the DHS as identified in the permanency plan. Categories of "home" include: client home, foster home, and relative/friend home. For the SFY 2014, the following demonstrates locations for discharge destinations.





Upon discharge, community-based services that are available include any combination of outpatient therapy, medication management, Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS), family peer support and systems of care, or IHH involvement. The documentation of discharge planning among PMICs demonstrated 98.9 percent of records reviewed as of June 30, 2014. This measure is inclusive of those who were discharged from a PMIC and a discharge plan was documented within 30 days of the admission to the PMIC.

The inclusion of IHHs as a component of treatment planning for children in PMICs will increase involvement of resources in the home communities of the children receiving PMIC services. From the onset of PMIC treatment, IHHs will be involved with the PMIC and the families, adding a more robust care coordination component to discharge planning and community treatment engagement in the transition from the PMIC level of care to the child's home community. The Family Peer Support Specialist who is part of the IHH will also work closely with the family of the child to support them while the child is receiving treatment and upon the child's return home. In order to support this addition of IHH integration as a component of coordination with PMICs, the PMIC Workgroup has been developing a workflow for IHHs and PMICs to guide expectations among all stakeholders involved in the treatment of the child.

*Case Example:*

A 15 year-old girl was receiving treatment in a PMIC facility in northwest Iowa after receiving several months of inpatient treatment due to a new diagnosis of schizophrenia. Her family did not feel comfortable taking her home and felt like they needed more supports in place before the PMIC could successfully discharge her. The member was initially enrolled into the IHH in the community where the PMIC was located because the IHH in her home community had not yet launched. By the time the child was ready to discharge to her home, the IHH in her community had launched and the PMIC was able to connect her to IHH and other local resources. The mother was very grateful to the IHH for the support they received. They were able to connect her daughter to adequate outpatient supports and liaison with the school to develop a plan to meet her needs. She is now living at home with supportive services that are able to meet the needs of the entire family.

## **PMIC Data**

### **Incidence of Readmission to PMICs**

In SFY14, the readmission rates for PMICs were measured using more meaningful timeframes for the PMIC population. Previous data provided regarding readmission rates were for 30, 60, and 90-day readmissions and while that information is useful in some ways, children were returning to PMICs greater than 90-days from a PMIC discharge, and this was necessary to capture given the nature and intensity of the treatment children receive at a PMIC facility. Through multiple discussions with stakeholders, a change was made and readmission rates have begun being calculated using 90-day, 180-day, and 365-day readmissions back to any PMIC facility. Data from previous years yielded insufficient data to give comparisons to state fiscal year 2013 for the 180-day and 365-day measures. The 90-day readmission rate for SFY14 (2.7 percent) was able to be compared to SFY13, which was 2.8 percent. The monitoring of readmissions using these parameters is meaningful in terms of efficacy of PMIC treatment, discharge planning, and parental involvement during treatment.

**PMIC Discharges from 7/1/13 to 6/30/14**

**90 DAY**

Ages 0-12 3.6%

Ages 13-17 2.8%

**Overall 2.9%**

**180 DAY**

Ages 0-12 6.8%

Ages 13-17 5.4%

**Overall 5.7%**

**365 DAY**

Ages 0-12 11.8%

Ages 13-17 9.6%

**Overall 10.2%**

**Length of Stay in PMICs**

The increased number of children served in PMICs in SFY14 has, in part, been influenced by the decrease in the average length of stay at the PMIC facilities since Magellan's management of PMIC services. In SFY14, the average length of stay was 225 days compared to 273 days in SFY11. Because of this decrease in the number of days a child received treatment in the PMIC facility over the course of the past three years, more children have been able to be served in the PMIC setting. As stated previously, 1,010 children were served in SFY14 as compared to 862 in SFY11.

**PMIC Member/Parent Satisfaction Surveys**

In 2012, Magellan developed a satisfaction survey as a result of discussion among the Quality Improvement (QI) Directors of PMICs and the QI Director of Magellan. With the assistance of Magellan's corporate survey team leadership, the workgroup integrated best practices from across PMICs to develop satisfaction surveys for parents, youth, and children. The process involved distribution of surveys, both paper and electronic, which measured satisfaction of care at an initial measure, care within the first two months, and care at discharge

at the end of the PMIC encounter. In September, the PMIC Workgroup committee discussed these results and how they are utilized in the individual PMICs. Many use the results for their accreditation purposes and to drive their own QI initiatives. Key results are shared below.

PMIC Youth Satisfaction (Ages 12-17) Survey Results, November 2014	Initial Survey Results	Discharge Survey Results
Q1. Do you feel safe from harm here?	49.4%	78.7%
Q4. Does staff encourage you to talk about and work on your mental health and problems?	69.4%	82.0%
Q6. Do you feel better able to deal with things that used to be hard for you?	62.4%	81.1%

#### Functional Outcomes Using the Consumer Health Inventory (CHI)/SF-12

Analysis was done of the Consumer Health Inventory that Magellan makes available to the PMIC providers and that is administered to children receiving PMIC services. The following information regarding the analysis has been provided by Magellan’s healthcare informatics experts to be included in this report.

Youth ages 14 and older in PMIC complete the Consumer Health Inventory (CHI) at admission and every six months. The CHI can be used for functional health outcomes through analysis of the change in emotional health scores, sub scores, and even item level response. Magellan’s goal was to identify the strength of the functional outcomes of PMIC as well as opportunities for improvement in functional outcomes. Statistically significant and meaningful change was seen in the following areas: Emotional Health, Coping, Social Functioning, Depression, Anxiety, and Thought Disorder. Youth with admission CHI scores more than one standard deviation below the US norm made substantial improvements in PMIC. There were too few youth reporting alcohol and other substance use for analysis. Observations and recommendations are provided for improving reporting and outcomes.

#### *Analysis*

This analysis studied all youths discharged from a PMIC facility between August 1, 2013 and July 30, 2014, were administered a CHI at admission and upon discharge. The CHI must have been administered within 30 days +/- the admission and the discharge date according to the rules of CHI administration and to guarantee accurate assessment of emotional and physical health. However, of the 789 youths discharged within this period, only 42 were given the CHI according to the criteria outlined above (i.e., an initial administered CHI

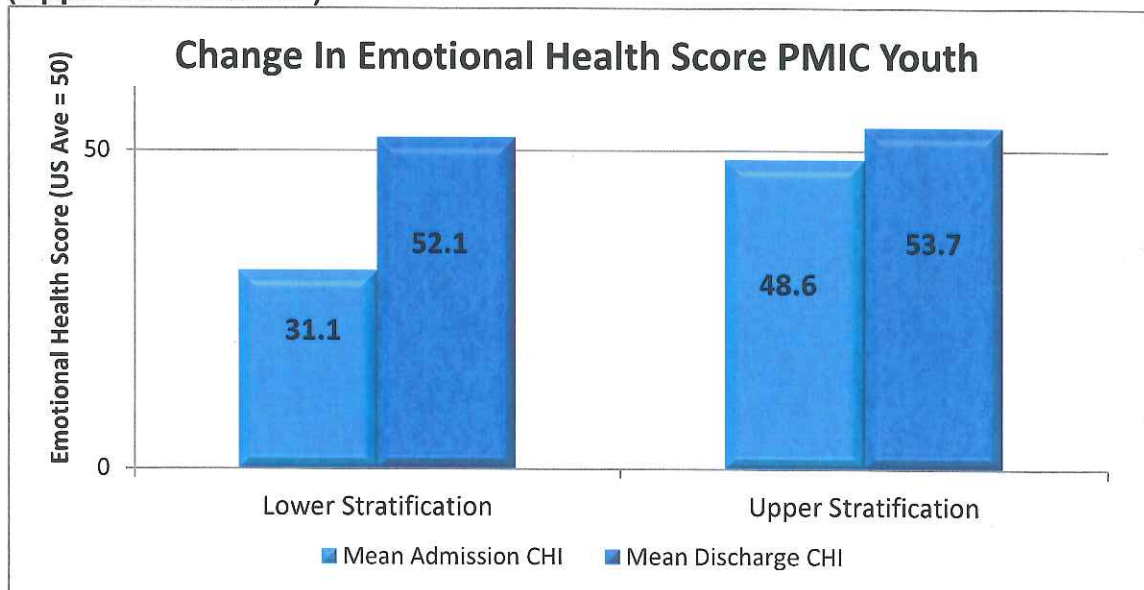
within +/- 30 days from the admission date AND a "discharge" CHI administered within +/- 30 days from the discharge date).<sup>1</sup>

The youth showed statistically significant improvement of 13 points in global emotional health between admission and discharge ( $t = 6.91, p < .001$ ). More importantly, the 21 youth who scored below average ( $<40$ , or one or more standard deviations below the normed mean of 50) improved an average of 20.98 points with an extremely large effect size ( $t = 9.13, p < .001$ ). Youth who scored average or above average (scores between 40 and 100) maintained average/above-average emotional health with statistically significant improvement at a large effect size ( $t = 2.93, p < .05$ ). (Table 1)

A coping scale was constructed to discover if improvements were found in a youth's ability to bounce back (Q2), formulate plans for the future (Q3), and deal well with daily problems (Q1). This coping scale was determined to be statistically significant ( $t = 5.50, p < .001$ ) with a very large effect.

<sup>1</sup>Another group was created for additional analytic power and generalization who had a first CHI within 6 months of admission and a most recent CHI with 6 months of discharge (Control group  $N = 42$ ). Significance testing showed that the two groups were not statistically different from one another, offering some proof that the study group is representative of the PMIC population. Additional information on the control group is in Appendix A.

#### Change in Emotional Health Score (SF-12) Stratified by US Norm Below Average Score (Lower Stratification) and Average/Above Average Score (Upper Stratification)



Social Functioning was measured on the 5-point Likert scale: How much of the time has your health been a problem with such things as seeing friends and

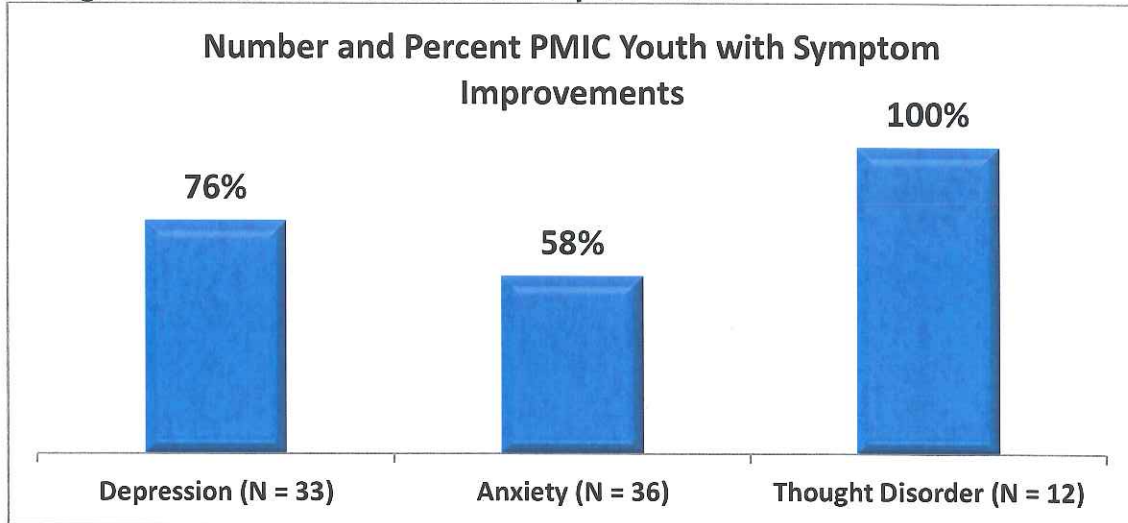
family... *All the time (1)/Much of the time (2)/Some of the Time (3)/A little of the time (4)/None of the time (5)*. Statistically significant improvement in social functioning was seen ( $t = 5.19, p < .001$ ) with a very large effect. On admission, the average youth scored at 3.95 and at discharge 4.98 for an average difference of 1.02 points. More meaningfully, at discharge 41 of 42 youth indicated that their health did not interfere with social functioning.

Depression was measured on a 5-point scale: *How much of the time have you felt downhearted and depressed...All the time (1)/Much of the time (2)/Some of the Time (3)/A little of the time (4)/None of the time (5)*. If a youth scored 1 - 4 on the first CHI administered, they were categorized as having symptoms of depression. Thirty-three (of 42) youths had symptoms of depression on admission while only 24 youths reported any depressive symptoms on discharge. Of the 33 youth who reported any depressive symptoms, 25 had improvement in their depression symptoms (e.g., moving from having depressive symptoms most of the time to a little of the time). This result was both statistically significant and meaningful.

Anxiety was measured on a 5-point scale: *How much of the time have you felt anxious and worried...All the time (1)/Much of the time (2)/Some of the Time (3)/A little of the time (4)/None of the time(5)*. If a youth scored 1 - 4 on the first CHI administered, they were categorized as having symptoms of anxiety. Thirty-six (of 42) youth had symptoms of anxiety at admission and 21 had improvement in their anxiety symptoms (e.g., moving from having symptoms of anxiety most of the time to a little of the time). This result was both statistically significant and meaningful.

Thought disorder was measured on a 5-point scale: *How much of the time have you seen or heard things that other people don't...All the time (1)/Much of the time (2)/Some of the Time (3)/A little of the time (4)/None of the time(5)*. If a youth scored 1 - 4 on the first CHI administered, they were categorized as having symptoms of thought disorder. Twelve (of 42) youth had symptoms of thought disorder and improved from experiencing symptoms of thought disorder a little of the time (3.75) to none of the time (4.83). This result was both statistically significant and meaningful.

**Number of Youth (out of 42) with Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety, and Thought Disorder and Percent with Improvements**



Substance abuse was unable to be sufficiently studied because only one youth reported using alcohol and two youth used other substances.

*Observations and Recommendations Based on Outcomes Analysis:*

1. The overall strength of the PMIC functional outcomes is on youth who are Below 40 on the Emotional Health Score (1+ Standard Deviation below US Norm). These youth average almost 2 SD below the US Norm, yet are able to gain back those functional losses. There remain symptoms of depression, anxiety, and even thought disorder, yet the full view of functional outcomes demonstrates that youth report coping much better with those behavioral symptoms and better able to function socially. Youth who are functioning within the normative range make modest gains. No study of the duration of the time to attain these outcomes between the youth at admission with lower or average scores could be completed due to the small number of youth in the sample; this could be a follow-up analysis.
2. Although demonstrating strong outcomes for these youth, the study should be viewed as preliminary outcomes as only 5 percent of the youth in PMIC had both an admission and discharge CHI +/- 30 days of both events. The comparison group which used a generous six months of admission and discharge only captured another 5 percent of the youth. For the CHI to be used purposefully for PMIC outcomes, completion at admission and discharge would be recommended as well as possibly mid-residential to

check on youth progress. PMICs could then use the CHI Provider Web Reports to better assess their own youth population and identify outlier scores for specific treatment planning and better identification of youth success.

## PMIC Expenditures

Analysis of the cost associated with PMIC service included a total cost in SFY14 of \$34.24 million with a total number of 1,010 unique youth served in that time period.

SFY	# of youth served	Total Cost
2009	854	\$18.27 million
2010	946	\$27.64 million
2011	862	\$25.79 million
2013	987	\$31.79 million
2014	1,010	\$34.24 million

\*SFY2012 data available to Magellan was incomplete for determining total cost for PMIC

This was compared to years prior to inclusion into the Iowa Plan as demonstrated in the table above. The increase in total cost of care for SFY was anticipated as no changes were recommended at the time of the PMIC transition to Magellan. These providers had been cost-based and were receiving rate increases annually. Over the course of SFY14, providers shifted off of cost-based reporting depending on when their organization's fiscal years ended.

## PMIC Workgroup Committee

The PMIC Transition Committee was required to meet through 2013 as mandated by Iowa Senate File 525. The committee opted to continue meeting on a quarterly basis throughout 2014. Committee membership includes all PMIC providers, Magellan staff, DHS staff, and a representative from the Coalition for Families and Children in Iowa. Agenda items have included: PMIC data, the DHS/JCO referral process changes, satisfaction survey results and analysis, PMIC and IHH involvement and process workflows, and critical incident reporting. As the needs of the children receiving PMIC services continue to change, there is great benefit in the continuation of this group meeting. It serves as a way to identify gaps in services and provide support to the PMIC providers as they provide clinical treatment to the state's children with some of the most challenging needs.

In addition, the PMIC School Transition Workgroup has continued to meet on occasion throughout the year with many discussions regarding the transfer of children from a PMIC back to their home school. Workgroup members include staff from the Department of Education, Magellan, and PMIC school staff. This collaboration with the



Department of Education has been beneficial to the PMIC school staff by providing a contact person with whom to address their questions as they arise.

## **Recommendations**

Continued administration of PMIC services in the Iowa Plan is recommended. This recommendation is based upon the benefit to the Iowa Plan members and the feedback from PMIC providers who collaborate daily with Magellan care managers. The value of including PMIC services in the Iowa Plan is the inclusion of PMIC services into an array of services already available through the Iowa Plan, as well as the partnerships that have developed between the PMIC providers and Magellan to work toward a system that better impacts the children receiving PMIC services. The coordination of care with Magellan, PMIC providers, and other clinical services is extremely beneficial and critical to the children served through the PMICs.

The work to identify gaps in effective community-based services continues for the children and their families seeking treatment. With the inclusion of the IHH Initiative, the IHHs can provide the continuity of services for families when they return to their home communities and will play a critical role in identifying these gaps as we move forward.

Along with PMIC providers, Magellan has made important gains in improving clinical services for children in PMIC settings. There is now a concerted effort to keep children in Iowa to meet their clinical needs and receive treatment. Through the work with other PMIC providers, there are now more options to receive that treatment in-state. If children are placed out-of-state for treatment, there are more options for bringing them back sooner than what has historically been available. While there continues to be gains to be made, the inclusion of PMIC services with the Iowa Plan is a logical step for children in coordinating care within the behavioral health service system.

## Appendix A Comparison (Control) Group

Another group was created for additional analytic power and generalization who had a first CHI within 6 months of admission and a most recent CHI with 6 months of discharge (Control group N = 42). The Study and the Control group both having 42 youth was coincidence. Significance testing showed that the two groups were not statistically different from one another, offering some proof that the study group is representative of the PMIC population. On the other hand, analysis of the outcomes is substantially different, offering some proof that PMIC outcomes are the result of intervention.

**Emotional Health:** The control group showed improvement in emotional health, but this improvement was not statistically significant except in the below average group (improvement of 16.37 points with a very large effect size ( $t = 5.38$ ,  $p < .001$ )).

**Coping:** Coping showed more modest statistically significant improvement ( $p < 0.05$ ) and had a moderate effect.

**Social Functioning:** Social functioning did not show statistically significant improvement with a change in functioning from 4.33 to 4.60, only 0.27 points.

**Depression:** 36 (of 42) youths had symptoms of depression and experienced some improvement which was not statistically significant.

**Anxiety:** 40 (of 42) youths had symptoms of anxiety. The youths in group B did not show statistically significant change, but scores remained stable in the some of the time category.

**Thought Disorder:** 10 (of 42) youths had symptoms of thought disorder. The Control group had even more impressive results as youths moved from having symptoms some of the time (3.30) to none of the time (4.8). These results were also statistically significant and meaningful.

**Alcohol and Substance Use:** Two youth reported using alcohol and two youth reported using other substances. Substance abuse was unable to be sufficiently studied.