

# **Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee**

## **Children's System State Board**

February 5, 2019

# Governor Initiatives

- Governor will introduce a bill for a children's mental health system (children's system)
- Governor's Budget Recommendation
  - \$1.2M to eliminate Children's Mental Health Home and Community Based Services Waiver Wait List
  - \$3M to train teachers to better recognize early signs of mental illness
  - Four additional slots for psychiatric residencies for doctors who practice in rural communities and psychiatric training for nurse practitioners and physician assistants

# Executive Order 2

Governor Reynolds' issued EO2 on April 23, 2018

- The health, safety, and welfare of Iowa's children are of the utmost importance
- Access to appropriate services is necessary to ensure Iowa's children's health, safety, and welfare
- Many serious mental health conditions emerge in the developmental years
- Current systems are inadequate to address Iowa's children's mental health needs
- An Iowa children's mental health system is needed to:
  - Improve well-being and build healthy and resilient children and families
  - Provide educational growth, and
  - Coordinate care and services across systems

# Executive Order 2

Children's System State Board (State Board) to:

- Find concrete solutions to the challenges of providing children's mental health in Iowa
- Develop and implement a Children's System
- Submit a strategic plan by November 15, 2018
- Provide technical advice or assistance to the Children's System or other governmental or non-governmental entities involved

# Background

- Structure of State Board
  - Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services and the Director of the Iowa Department of Education are co-chairs
  - Members are appointed by the Governor
  - Membership includes parent of a child with a serious emotional disturbance, children's services providers, educators, area education agency, mental health and disability services (MHDS) regions, MHDS Commission, law enforcement, juvenile court, hospitals, legislators, and state departments
- Information on State Board members, meetings, and the full strategic plan can be found at:  
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/about/mhds-advisory-groups/childrens-system-state-board>
- Previous reports and papers containing similar recommendations can be found at:  
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/about/mhds-advisory-groups/childrens-mental-health-well-being-workgroup>

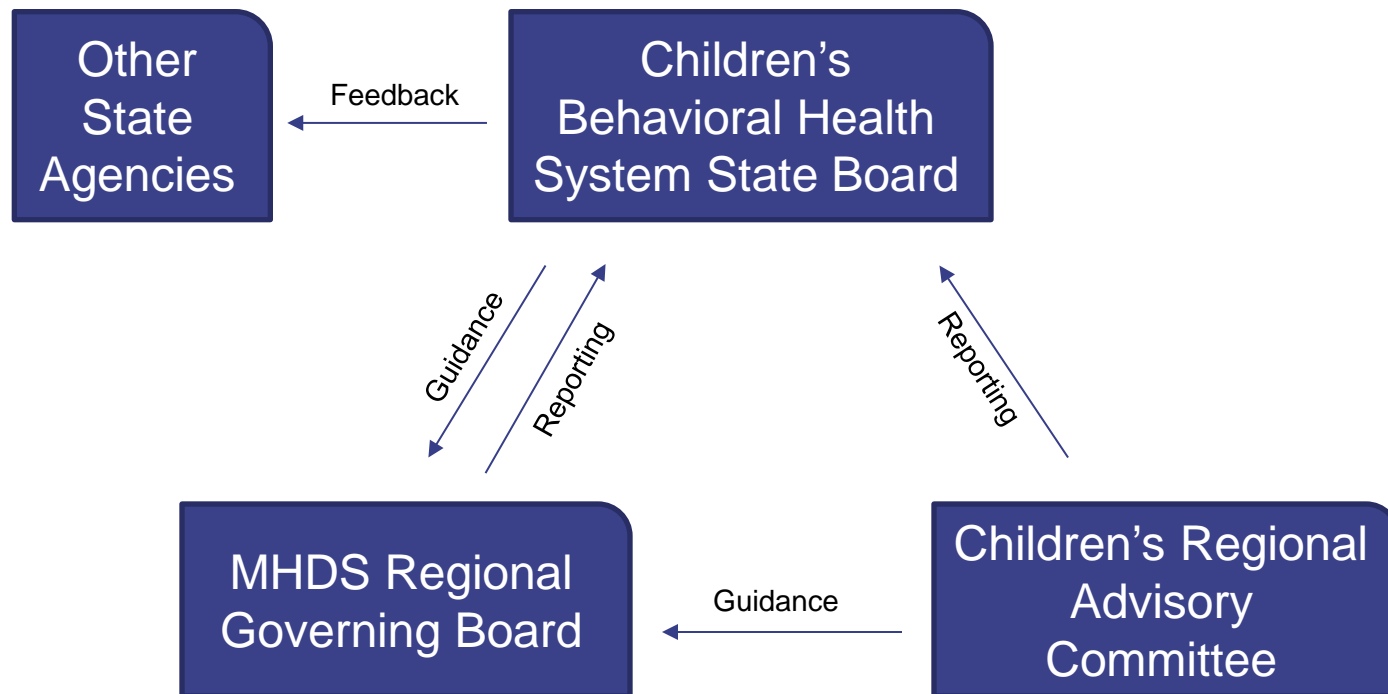
# Summary of Recommendations

- The State Board recommends the following:
  - Behavioral health screenings
  - Required set of behavioral health services (core services)
  - Regional governance to develop access to the core services
  - State Board be codified
  - Stable, ongoing funding identified and secured

# Core Services

- Prioritize and implement a set of core services, such as care coordination and comprehensive crisis services, over a two year period

# Structure





# Regional Governance

The State Board recommends that:

- Administration of the Children's System will be built on the already existing administrative and geographic structure of the MHDS regions
- MHDS Regional Boards be locally guided by a Children's Regional Advisory Committee (Children's Committee)
- Regional CEO is equally responsible for the Children's System and the adult MHDS System

# MHDS Regional Board's Responsibilities

- Developing access to required core services and supports;
- Seeking guidance Children's Committee;
- Administering funds provided for the Children's System in a separate account;
- Collecting and reporting data to the Children's Committee and State Board;
- Receiving and incorporating provider and family input in the decision making process;
- Completing needs assessments;
- Facilitating transitions from Children's System to adult MHDS System;
- Funding services for eligible children; and
- Employing one or more staff directly responsible for children's behavioral health services.

# MHDS Regional Board's Responsibilities

- Establishing preventative strategies that are not subject to eligibility criteria;
- Funding needed core services for children that meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - Identified as being in need of behavioral health services; especially children with a serious emotional disturbance
  - Not covered by Medicaid, private insurance or other available public or private payer that covers the needed services; and
  - Have a household income level equal to or less than 500 percent of the federal poverty level.
  - Apply a statewide sliding fee schedule.

# Children's Regional Advisory Committee

- Membership should be similar to the State Board
- Duties should include:
  - Voting membership on the MHDS Regional Board
  - Participation in each MHDS Regional Board meeting as an agenda item
  - Annual report on the MHDS region

# State Governance

- The State Board should be codified including membership, roles, responsibilities, and system accountability
- The Department of Human Services dedicate adequate staff to provide administrative support for the implementation of the Children's System

# State Board Duties

- Provide guidance to the State and MHDS regions on the Children's System;
- Provide consultation on development of statewide standards for the Children's System;
- Develop guidance regarding the required core services and supports established for the Children's System;
- Promote evidence-based strategies;
- Identify statewide performance and outcome measures and/or data requirements; and
- Submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly

# Workforce Development

- The State Board recommends workforce incentives be established for professionals working in the behavioral health field. These incentives include:
  - Support for the Future Ready Iowa Act and healthcare high demand jobs;
  - Tuition reimbursement for professionals working in Iowa;
  - Moving incentive for current professionals;
  - Tax credits for professionals;
  - Housing program for students/professionals;
  - Forgivable student loans;
  - Internships for students; and
  - Creation of a fund to provide competitive grants to create new programs to increase the number of trained providers in Iowa for children's behavioral health services.

# Additional Recommendations

- Elimination of the Children's Mental Health (CMH) Waiver waiting list
- Systems of Care (SOC) programs be expanded statewide
- Administrative rules written for core services and regional governance that include provision for:
  - Expanding telehealth as a service delivery modality;
  - Evidence based practices;
  - Trauma informed treatment;
  - Services that address reactive attachment disorder; and
  - Services designed to meet the needs of children in foster care and special needs adoptions.



# Funding

- A stable funding source be identified and utilized for the development and maintenance of the Children's System
- The following funding sources are already being used to pay for children's behavioral health services:
  - Private insurance;
  - Medical assistance program;
  - Iowa Department of Education;
  - Iowa Department of Public Health
  - Juvenile Justice;
  - MHDS Regions;
  - Community Mental Health Block Grant; and
  - Substance Use Disorder Block Grant.

# Funding

- Children's core services and supports be defined to qualify for reimbursement from private insurance and Medicaid
- State departments that provide funding for children's behavioral health services coordinate funding in the most efficient manner possible
- Services not covered by private insurance or Medicaid or services provided to individuals not covered by private insurance or Medicaid that meet the eligibility criteria shall be paid by public funds consisting of a combination of:
  - General fund appropriations; and/or
  - Property tax levy designated.

# Questions?