



Iowa Department of Human Services



# **IT IS TIME: Iowa's Children's System**

Children's Mental Health and Well-being Advisory Committee

Presentation to the HHS Budget Subcommittee  
February 28, 2018

Artwork submitted by Destiny Davis, Age 14 from Floris, IA

# Introduction

- Iowa has no point of responsibility or dedicated funding for a coordinated children's mental health and well-being system.
- Mental health and disability regions and their levy are not required to manage or fund services for children under the age of 18.
- As a result, children with mental health and other challenges have been served by cobbling together disconnected services, resources and knowledge.

# Background

- In 2015 and 2016 the Children's Mental Health & Well-being (CMHWB) Workgroup was convened to provide support and recommendations for a children's service system in Iowa.

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/mhds-advisory-groups/childrens-mental-health-well-being-workgroup>

- The Workgroup consisted of a variety of providers, advocates, policymakers, and stakeholders to ensure a cross-system approach.

# Previous Results

- This Workgroup proposed first testing some key elements of a Children's System
- The Legislature supported, and the Workgroup has overseen, the implementation of the first elements of a state-wide Children's System:
  - 2 Crisis Intervention pilots in 2016
  - 2 Well-Being Learning labs in 2016
  - 3 Children's Well-Being Collaboratives in 2017

# Previous Recommendations

- The Workgroup also developed recommendations for a broader plan regarding children's core mental health and well-being services.
- As a result of these efforts and recommendations, the Legislature (2017 HF 653) called for the creation of a children's mental health and well-being advisory committee to continue efforts relating to:
  - children's mental health crisis services,
  - children's well-being learning labs,
  - supporting the children's well-being collaboratives, and
  - proposing the design of a statewide Children's System

# It is Time

- Building upon the previous results and recommendations, the 2017 Children's Mental Health and Well-being Advisory Committee has developed a proposal to create a state-wide Children's System in Iowa to better address mental health and well-being.
- The Committee has recently prepared a white paper regarding the Children's System, that expands on this presentation: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/mhds-advisory-groups/childrens-mental-health-well-being-workgroup>

# Committee Findings

The Children's System must provide services and supports:

- To children with a full array of needs - from those that are at-risk to those with complex needs - and their families
- So that children and their families have equitable access to quality mental health and well-being services in all areas of the state
- In order that they experience recovery and build resiliency to successfully live with their families and in their community, experience educational growth, and become successful adults

# Committee Conclusions

The state-wide children's system must use a cross-systems approach that:

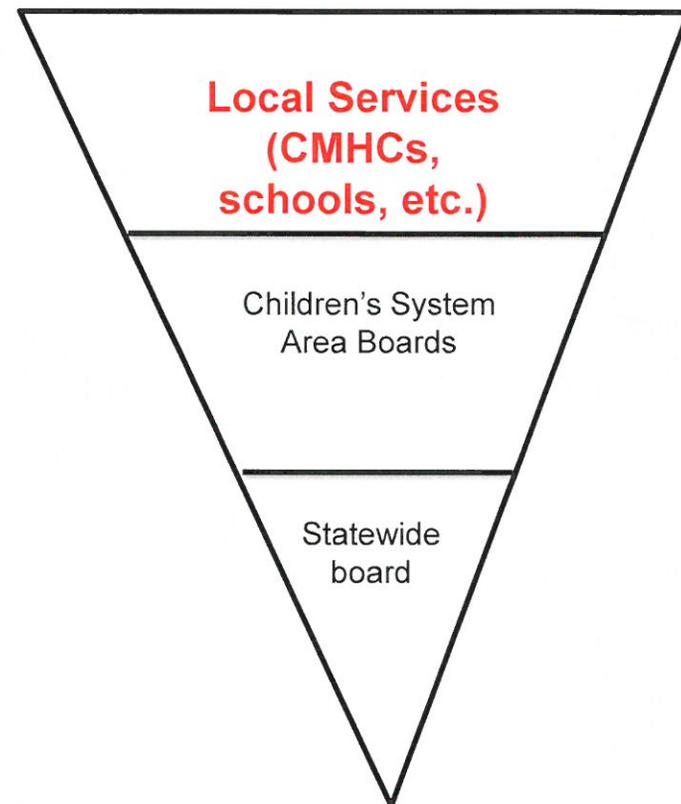
- Does more than just treating child's mental health symptoms, by providing for broader well-being of the child and family that addresses education, health care, employment and basic needs (food, housing, transportation, etc.).
- Effectively and efficiently coordinates services, and entities intentionally collaborate in their joint efforts
- Assures resources from multiple sources, state agencies, and partners are used effectively and efficiently

# Committee Recommendations:

- Iowa's Children's System must have:
  - ✓ Local Delivery of Services – A set of locally provided and required core cross-system mental health and well-being services and supports for children with a range of needs from at-risk to those in severe crisis
  - ✓ Area Leadership – A local "driver group" that helps coordinate, build intentional collaboration, and advocates for services and resources that improve measured outcomes for children and families
  - ✓ Statewide Standards – State level support, guidance, monitoring, and accountability for the local Children's System

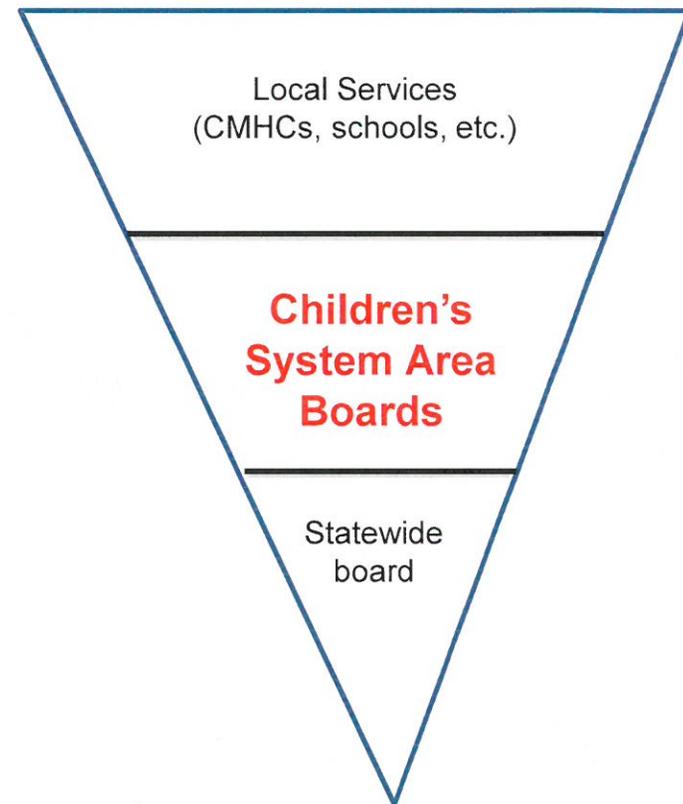
# Local Delivery of Services: Assure Access to the Full Array of Local Services and Supports

- Expand Children's Well-being Collaboratives statewide
- Create a local plan and timeline to implement the full array of core cross-system children's mental health and well-being services and supports
- Increase the availability of core cross-system services and supports by mapping what exists and identifying gaps in mental health and well-being services, against the local plan
- Identify and braid funding and other resources needed to fill the gaps to fully implement the plan.



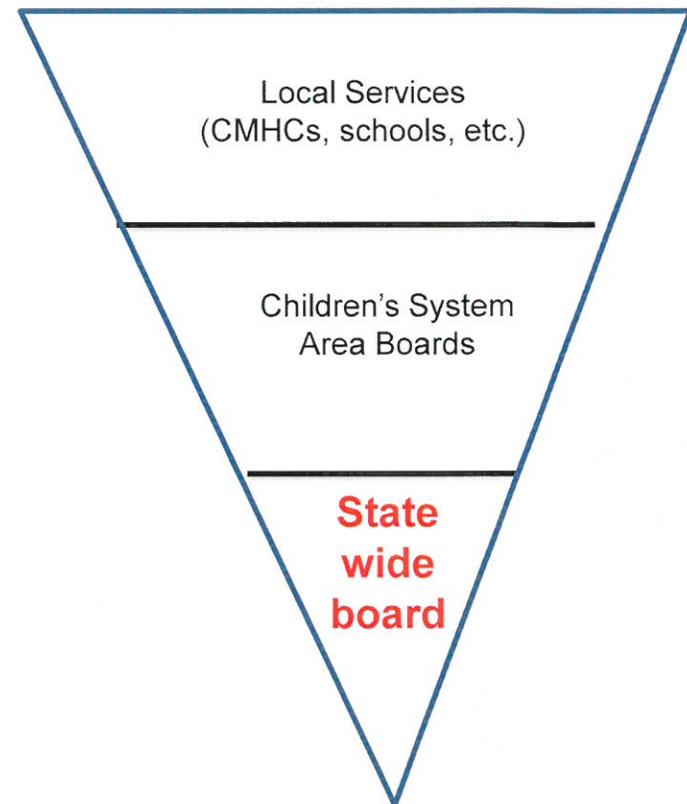
# Area Leadership: Build Cross-system Coordination, Collaboration, and Advocacy

- Require shared cross-organizational system coordination, intentional collaboration, and advocacy.
- Determine efficiencies across funding, data collection/analytics, and reporting between state and local organizations to fill gaps
- Report annually on the progress and effectiveness of the Children's System in improving children's mental health and well-being in Iowa.
- Create Children's System Area Boards to guide, direct and oversee the local work

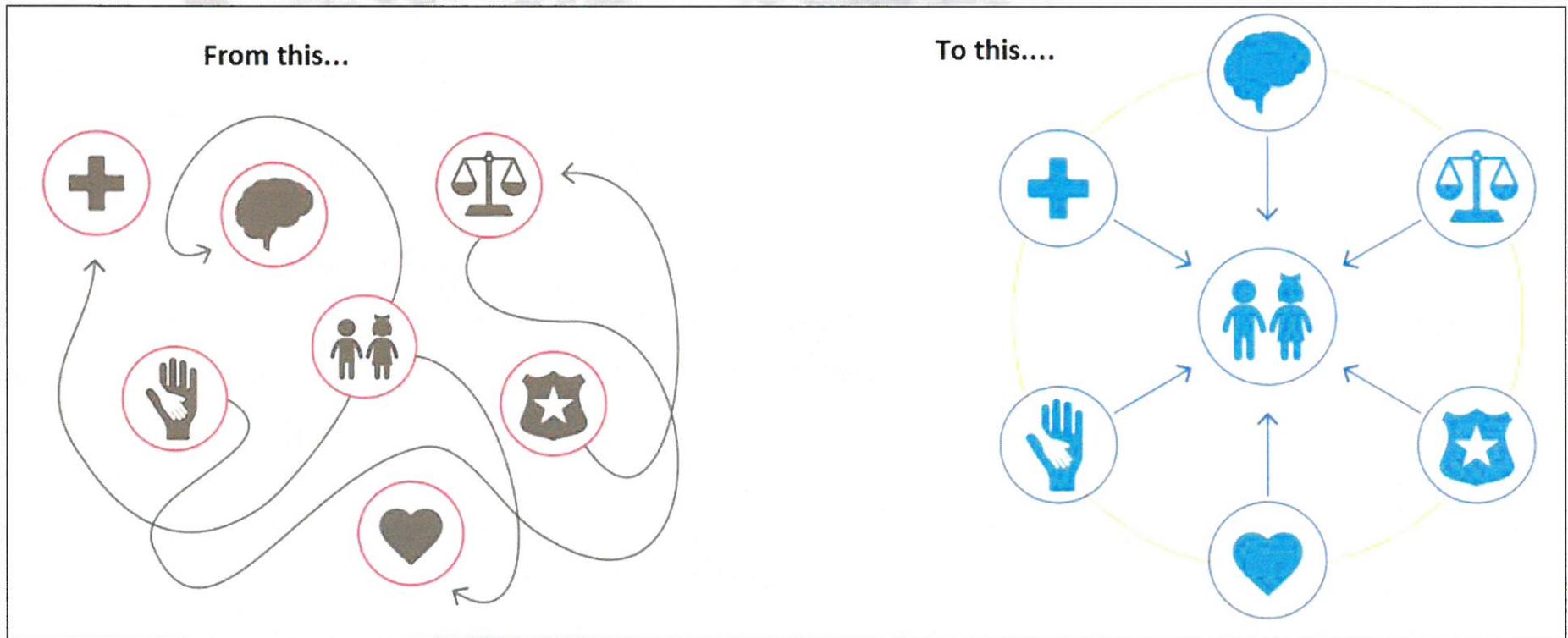


# Statewide Standards: Structure, Quality, Effectiveness, & Accountability

- Establish statewide standards, expectations and measures of effectiveness for core cross-system mental health and well-being services and the workforce;
- Provide support and guidance for effective cross-system collaboration, professional development and coordination of services and supports, including methods to combine funding streams to improve efficiency (“Braided Funding”)
- Create a Children’s System State Board comprised of leaders from key state agencies and representatives from parents, providers and citizens, to direct and assess the results statewide.
- Establish the state board to promote a vision for the Children's System; oversee local and area efforts, have decision-making authority and be responsible for strategic planning to support the system



# It is Time for Iowa's Children's System



Artwork submitted by an anonymous teenager from Iowa City

# 2018 Request

- Building the full Children's System will take several years
- This year, it will be important to:
  1. establish legislative support in policy for the Children's System design
  2. support and maintain existing local services
  3. continue and expand children's collaboratives - \$300,000 to \$600,000
  4. establish statewide board – \$80,000 to \$100,000
- Next year, the Children's System is scheduled to:
  - establish area boards
  - begin coordination, collaboration, and monitoring local services
  - start identify and begin filling service gaps