Children’s Mental Health Initiative

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The Problem…

- Some children struggle with significant mental health issues.
- Their families have difficulty accessing services (generally due to inability to pay).
The Problem…

- Some families get bounced from agency to agency trying to access services.

- Other families end up in the child welfare system (through a CHINS 6) as a way to access services - parents have not abused or neglected their child.
Current Process: Access to Children's Mental Health Services

1. Schools
2. Parent Initiated
3. Community Members
4. Judges & Probation Officers
5. Prosecutors & Public Defenders

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)/Access Site

Assessment for Level of Need

- Medicaid Eligible
  - DMHA Match Funded
- Private Insurance or Private Pay

- Child In Need of Services (CHINS) Case or Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Case

- Community Based Services
- Wraparound Services
- Inpatient Services (Acute)
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) or State Operated Facility
There must be a better way…

- DCS and FSSA began meeting to brainstorm solutions.
- All agree that a child should not have to be a CHINS for the sole purpose of accessing services.
- Consider what is best for families.

If this were your family, what would you want?
There must be a better way…

- Need to remove silos!
- Needs to be simple!
- Needs to be a multiagency solution.
Review of what already exists...

- PRTF Transition Waiver (CA-PRTF)
- Application for State Plan Amendment for 1915i for children
- Access Sites—many counties already have this structure with Systems of Care
- MRO/Clinic Services
- PRTF
- DCS master contracts with CMHCs
The Proposed Solution to Assist Families in Crisis…

- DCS provides funding for those families in crisis who cannot afford to access these services.

- DMHA will collaborate to assist with building statewide Access Sites and assist DCS with service monitoring.

- State Agency Committee with representatives from DCS and FSSA to follow the process and brainstorm solutions when obstacles arise.
Families will be sent to the Access Site for an assessment to determine eligibility for services.

Those who meet eligibility criteria for services but are not eligible for Medicaid, will access services through DCS contract.
Who can refer a child to Community Mental Health Access Site?

- Community Members
- Service Providers
- Schools
- Prosecutors
- Anyone
- Public Defenders
- Anyone
- Judges
- DCS
- Anyone
- Health Care Providers
- Parent(s)
What happens when the family won’t engage in services...

- Does the family need services in order to maintain the safety of the child or other children?
- Is the family unwilling to accept offered services?
- Does the family insist the child needs to be removed when the assessment indicates the child can be maintained at home with services?

If yes...
What happens when the family won’t engage in services…

If yes…

DCS will complete an assessment to determine if there should be an open DCS case to obtain the intervention of the court to require the family to engage in services.
Who will be Eligible

Target Group Eligibility

- Child or adolescent age 6 through the age of 17
- Youth who is experiencing significant emotional and/or functional impairments that impact their level of functioning at home or in the community (e.g., Seriously Emotionally Disturbed classification)
- Not eligible for BDDS services
- Not eligible for Medicaid

AND…
On the mental health side…

**Needs-Based Criteria**

**DSM-IV-TR Diagnosis**- Youth meets criteria for two (2) or more diagnoses.

**CANS 4, 5, or 6**

**Dysfunctional Behavior**- Youth is demonstrating patterns of behavior that place him/her at risk of institutional placement— & unresponsive to traditional outpatient and/or community-based therapy.

**Specifically:**
- Maladjustment to trauma
- Psychosis
- Debilitating anxiety
- Conduct problems
- Sexual aggression
- Fire-setting

**Family Functioning and Support**- Family/caregiver demonstrates significant need in one or more of the following areas:
- Mental health
- Supervision issues
- Family stress
- Substance abuse
Proposed Process: Access to Children's Mental Health Services

- Schools
- Parent Initiated
- Community Members
- Judges & Probation Officers
- Prosecutors & Public Defenders

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)/Access Site

Assessment for Level of Need

- Does Not Meet Level of Need
  - Referral to DCS Community Partners Program

- Meets Level of Need
  - Medicaid Eligible
    - DMHA Match Funded
  - Not Medicaid Eligible/Insurance Not Pay
    - DCS State Funded

Community Based Services
Wraparound Services
Inpatient Services (Acute)
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) or State Operated Facility

If Lack of Parent or Child Involvement CMHC Report to DCS

Department of Child Services Assessment (Determine Need for CHINS)
If the JD/JS case is opened, the child should be served through available services under the JD/JS case (not the Children’s Mental Health Wraparound Services Project).

An assessment for the Children’s Mental Health Wraparound Services Project may be completed while there is an open JD/JS case.

When the condition of delinquency has been alleviated and the JD/JS case closes, the child may participate in the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Services Project.
If a JD/JS case is not opened, the child could be served through the Children’s Mental Health Wraparound Services Project.

The assessment for the Children’s Mental Health Wraparound Services Project may be completed before a decision is made whether or not to pursue a JD/JS case.
Family Evaluations
Family Evaluations
The Philosophy…

- DCS will serve these families by providing a Family Evaluation by specially trained Family Case Managers.

- DCS will provide service access to these families when the child is determined to be a danger to him/herself or others and the family does not have the ability or resources to access the services needed.
What is a Family Evaluation...

- Conducted to determine if services are needed in order to maintain the safety of the child or family members.
  - Looking specifically to determine what might need to be offered to maintain the child safely in his/her home.
  - When that is not possible, you will be reviewing if placement is an option. Your role is to connect the family to the necessary resources.

- Similar to an assessment, however, there are no allegations of abuse or neglect and no alleged perpetrators.

- In a Family Evaluation, the FCM will complete the Family Evaluation form.

- This is NOT an assessment for abuse or neglect.