INDIANA FAMILY & SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
FSSA

To compassionately serve our diverse community of Hoosiers by dismantling long-standing persistent inequity through deliberate human services system improvement.

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Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Behavioral Health Workgroup Recommendations

Amber Becker

Director of Child, Youth, and Family Systems

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Indiana's Plan for Behavioral Health Under HEA 1359-2022

Develop criteria for the use of diagnostic assessments as described in Ind. Code 31-37-19-11.7 (permits use of telehealth services as a juvenile court alternative to traditional diagnostic assessments.

Develop a statewide plan to address the provision of broader behavioral health services for youth in the juvenile justice system

Comprehensive Plan and Policy for Court-Ordered Diagnostic Assessments

Develop and adopt a comprehensive plan and policy.

Track data related to court ordered pre-dispositional psychological assessments.

Documentation of utilizing least restrictive setting to conduct an assessment

Considerations for Referral to DOC-DYS for Diagnostic Assessment

Consider key questions before making a referral to DOC-DYS for a diagnostic assessment

Does the youth have a current mental health diagnosis? Is a diagnostic assessment already available? To what extent does the mental health appear to be connected to delinquent behavior?

Emphasize evidence-based, trauma-informed, culturally appropriate evaluations

Inter-agency evaluations must be evidence-based and trauma-informed, as well as culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of the community.

Acceptable timeframe for decision-making

Protocols should emphasize an acceptable timeframe to use these evaluations to inform decision-making.

Annual Statewide Assessment by Oversight Body

Mandate an annual assessment by an oversight body

To analyze current data and trends, with a special focus on rural areas

Inform recommendations for policy and practice changes

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the youth justice system

Provide targeted technical assistance

To support local youth justice systems and practitioners in providing high-quality evaluations

Provide local counties with guidelines

To provide a clear, uniform plan for data collection and presentation

Partnering with DCS to Expand Availability of Diagnostic Assessments

Expand DCS availability
Provide additional assessments in the community, utilizing telehealth instead of sending youth to DOC

Local agreements
Create local service agreements with professionals and/or local agencies to administer evaluations

Incentivize providers
Engage with and incentivize providers to complete assessments in a timely manner

Behavioral health grants
Utilize behavioral health grants to coordinate and expand available resources

Utilizing Telehealth

Utilize Telehealth Options

to alleviate the need for youth to be Sent to DOC-DYS

Medicaid Reimbursement

for one unit of psychiatric diagnostic evaluation interview examination per member and provider in a rolling 12-month period

Secure Videoconferencing

Store and Forward Technology, or Remote Patient Monitoring Technology

Barriers to Consider

Provide a private space in probation offices or a detention center, Affordable Connectivity Program, Behavioral Health Grants, Statewide Funding for Broadband

Implementing a Multidisciplinary Team Model for Youth with High Acuity

Create a multidisciplinary team

Composed of multiple agencies and stakeholders to address the complex needs of youth presenting with high acuity needs.

Create a resource guide

To ensure all resources have been utilized and exhausted, prior to the case being referred to the state multidisciplinary team.

Develop a formalized membership, escalation process, and voting procedures

To oversee the process of locating services and/or placements.

Expand Existing Programming to Include Evidence Based Treatment

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

Therapists can work in the home, school, and community and on-call 24/7 to provide caregivers with the tools they need to transform the lives of the youth served.

Family Mentoring

Based on Family Support Providers (FSP or Navigators; FSPs are individuals who work with families in the juvenile justice system.
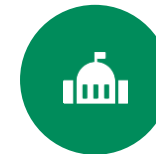
Mentoring Programs

Create robust and fully-funded mentoring programs or support those already in existence that are aligned with best practices for youth mentoring.

Credible Messengers

A transformational process where individuals from similar back groups, especially individuals who were themselves system-involved, engage youth in structured and intentional relationships.

Supporting the Work of the Behavioral Health Commission

Utilize 988 to Build a Crisis Response System

Sequential Intercept Model/Critical Intervention Mapping

Implement Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCS)

Improve Mental Health Literacy

Increase Workforce

Data Sharing Program

Youth & Family Advisory Group

Better system coordination between DOC, schools, and others who have provided services to youth

Increase efforts for parental engagement before and after system involvement

Focus on earlier interventions and use of diversion to minimize system involvement

Enhance partnerships with community partners

Continue to expand access to providers in rural areas to decrease access times to mental health treatment

Conclusion and Next Steps

Formalize multidisciplinary group

Develop written policy and procedures

Expand accessibility to diagnostic assessments

Work with DCS to contract providers and use telehealth

Provide guidance and support for grant review

Collaborate with Indiana Behavioral Health Commission

Workgroup Members

Sirrilla Blackmon, Chair FSSA: DMHA	Dr. Kristen Dauss, Co-Chair Former, IDOC	Nick Parker, Staff IOCS	Mindy Picket, Staff IOCS
Amber Becker FSSA: DMHA	Zoe Frantz Indiana Council of CMHCs	Brittany Simmons IOCS	Alicia Pratt Tippecanoe County Public Defender
Jessica Harlan-York FSSA: DDRS	Dr. Crystal Mehta IDOC	Ann Davis IARCA	Keena Baumer FSSA: Medicaid
Dr. Leslie Hulvershorn IU & FSSA: DMHA	Dr. Chris Drapeau Former, FSSA: DMHA	Wayon James DCS	Rebekah Frazer IDOE

Cheryl Bartnick
Allen County Probation