



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL SUMMARY

Children's Mental Health HF 690

Status of Bill: House Calendar

Committee: Human Resources (21-0)

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Lead Democrat: Rep. Brown-Powers

Floor Manager: Rep. Fry

Background

Currently, Iowa does not have a mental health system designed specifically for children. This bill attempts to create the structure. There is no specific funding allocated in the bill, and any funding will be allocated in the Health and Human Services budget.

Summary

Eligibility Requirements

- Child is under 18 years of age
- Child is resident of Iowa
- Has been diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance (SED), except in crisis services
- Family income equal to or less than 500% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Family income between 150% to 500% of FPL shall be eligible to pay a copayment, sliding fee scale, or other cost-sharing requirements approved by Department of Human Services (DHS)
- DOES NOT apply to intellectual disability services or brain injury services
- DOES NOT include substance use and developmental disorders unless they co-occur with a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board Members

The Children's Behavior Health System State Board (Board) is to provide guidance on the implementation and management of the children's system. Public voting members appointed to four-year staggered terms by the Governor and are subject to Senate confirmation, and members cannot serve for more than two consecutive four-year terms. This Board is co-chaired by the directors of Education and Human Services. The board is to meet a minimum of four times per year and will submit a written report every year on December 1 to the Governor and General Assembly. The membership of the Board includes:

- Director of DHS
- Director of Education
- Director of Public Health
- Director of Workforce Development
- One member selected from nominees submitted by the state court administrator
- One member selected from nominees submitted by the Early Childhood Iowa Office (DOM)
- One member from the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Commission
- One member from a provider of mental health services to children
- One member from a provider of child welfare services
- One member from an area education agency-administrator

- One member from a school district-educator, counselor, or administrator
- One member from an established children’s mental health advocacy organization
- One member that is a parent or guardian of a child currently using or have used the behavioral health services
- One member is a sheriff
- One member is a pediatrician
- One member is a representative from the health care system
- One member is the Chief Executive Officer of a MHDS region
- Four members from the General Assembly (nonvoting, ex-officio)

Core Services and Additional Core Services of the Children’s System

- Core services:
 - Treatment of a child’s serious emotional disturbance (SED), including but not limited to:
 1. Prevention, early identification, early intervention and education
 2. Assessment and evaluation relating to eligibility for services
 3. Medication prescribing and management
 4. Behavioral health outpatient therapy
 - Comprehensive facility and community-based crisis services (regardless of a SED diagnosis):
 1. Mobile response
 2. Crisis stabilization community-based services
 3. Crisis stabilization residential services
 4. Behavioral health inpatient treatment
 5. Statewide 24-hour crisis hotline
- Additional core services (when public funds are made available):
 - Treatments including but not limited to behavioral health school-based therapy
 - Support for community living:
 1. Family support
 2. Peer support
 3. Therapeutic foster care
 4. Respite care
 - Transition services for children to the adult system including but not limited to:
 1. Day habilitation
 2. Job development
 3. Supported employment
 4. Prevocational services
 5. Educational services
 - Service coordination including physical health and primary care, including but not limited to:
 1. Care coordination
 2. Health homes

Required Rules and Reports

DHS is to adopt rules using the recommendations of the Children’s Board no later than January 1, 2020.

These rules must do the following:

- Define core services
- Provide service definitions
- Set service provider standards
- Set service access standards
- Set service implementation dates

Also, each Mental Health and Disability Services region must submit to DHS plans to implement children’s behavioral health services no later than April 1, 2020.

Funding

Though there is no direct funding appropriated in this bill, the following are several requirements that regions and DHS must adhere to:

- DHS has to ensure that these defined core services will be covered by Medicaid, and that Medicaid will reimburse the providers when the services are medically necessary and no other third-party payer is responsible for reimbursement (subject to available appropriations).
- Within the funds available, the MHDS regions must pay for the services for eligible children when no Medicaid or third-party payer is available.
- Until more funding is found, the eligibility for core services is limited to children who are in need of behavioral health services.
- Family income between 150% to 500% of FPL shall be eligible to pay a copayment, sliding fee scale, or other cost-sharing requirements approved by DHS.

MHDS Regional Governing Board Changes

The bill addressed some changes to the MHDS Regional Governing Board to help integrate the Children's System into the current adult system:

- Membership Requirements:
 - At least one Board of Supervisors member from each county in the region (voting member)
 - One adult person who utilizes the adult MHDS services or is an involved relative of someone who does
 - One member representing adult service providers (nonvoting, ex-officio capacity)
 - One member representing a children's behavioral health provider (nonvoting, ex-officio)
 - One member representing the Area Education Agencies (AEAs)
 - One member who is a parent (or an actively involved relative) of a child utilizing the services
- This board SHALL NOT include employees of DHS or an unelected employee of a county
- Regional Advisory Committees within the Board:
 1. One regional advisory committee consisting of adults who use the services, service providers and regional governing board member
 2. One regional children's advisory committee consisting of parents of children who use the services, an AEA administrator, an early childhood advocate, a child welfare advocate, a children's behavioral health provider, a member of the juvenile court, a pediatrician, a child care provider, a local law enforcement representative, and regional governing board members
- Adds to the regional administrator staff one or more coordinators of the children's services
- Requires the MHDS regions to include information regarding the children's services in their annual service and budget plan

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