



OHIO
CHILDREN'S
BUDGET
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ISSUE BRIEF

Issue: Multi-System Youth

Multi-system youth (MSY) are children and youth who require services from more than one child-serving system including child protection, developmental disabilities, mental health and addiction and juvenile justice. Care for physical, emotional and behavioral needs in MSY is often complex and can be expensive. This can result in challenges for children and their families in coordinating care across multiple systems, and in the most heart wrenching cases, may involve forcing parents to relinquish custody in order to receive services that the child needs.

Policy

In these cases of forced custody relinquishment, parents have not abused or neglected their children but rather must give up the custody of their child because they are ill and lack access or the financial means for treatment. In January 2020, the state published the Multi-System Action Plan. A part of this plan, developed through the Family and Children First Council, would establish a system that would identify families at risk of custody relinquishment and instead find a way to provide the services their children and youth need for the serious treatment issues their health care required. This Plan was released on the heels of a state budget that provided dedicated support for MSY with an aim to better coordinate services and fill gaps in care to better support children and reduce the need for custody relinquishment.

Challenge

There is continued need for funding to support MSY across multiple agencies in the state budget. While the Action Plan and the Department of Medicaid's OhioRISE plan and the federal Families First and Prevention Services Act provide a strong framework to move forward, it will take time for these programs to be fully implemented and provide positive results for Ohio's children. It is critical that support for MSY in the state budget be maintained as we all work together to move these plans forward.

Opportunity

OhioRISE (Ohio Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) is expected to provide comprehensive services to 50,000-60,000 of Ohio's most vulnerable children and youth needing specialized treatment through the Medicaid Program and for



whom to date the Medicaid Program has not served these children and youth. Their treatment and support requirements transcend any one public system, including behavioral health, child protection services, juvenile justice, health, developmental disabilities and education. OhioRISE will support the development of a single managed care plan that will assess the level of need, identify required services and importantly coordinate these services, across various community providers, agencies and systems. The ultimate goal of OhioRISE is to keep children and youth in their homes, communities and schools by assessing for and delivering the appropriate level of care.

Workgroups within the ODM have been convened to assist with implementation of OhioRISE and includes stakeholders to address services, eligibility and care coordination. Key services that will be added or expanded under OhioRISE are:

- Intensive care coordination using high-fidelity wraparound services
- Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)
- Intensive Home-Based Treatment Services
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities
- Moderate care coordination wraparound - informed approach

Support Child Well-Being: Budget Recommendation

It is critical to support funding across state agencies that serve MSY. This includes at least continued levels of funding dedicated to MSY in the ODM, DODD and JFS budgets, as well as funding necessary to successfully implement OhioRISE in the ODM budget.

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