



# **Service for Children with Behavioral Health Challenges**

**Lisa Rich, Deputy Director of Services and Outcomes  
Department of Child Services**

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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).**
- **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.**
- **The CHINS 6 process is not family friendly process.**



# There must be a better way...

- **DCS and FSSA began meeting to brainstorm solutions.**
- **There is a good service structure for children with Medicaid, the gap is with those who do not have Medicaid.**
- **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? Needs to be simple!**
- **Needs to be a multiagency solution. Need to remove silos!**



# 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.**
- **Representatives from DCS and FSSA to follow the process and brainstorm solutions when obstacles arise.**



# Access to Mental Health Services...

- **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.**



# 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...**

**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.**



# Pilots...

- **2-3 pilot communities who already have strong Access sites.**
- **Modify the existing DCS master contract to allow service access to those children/families who do not have an open DCS case.**
- **Need to determine the volume. DCS has funding for about 300 cases statewide annually. How can we ensure we target the right children?**





# Who Will Qualify For the Pilot. 1

## Proposed eligibility for DCS funded mental health services

### 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...**



# Who Will Qualify for the Pilot. 2

## Needs-Based Criteria

Youth/families meeting the above *Target Group Eligibility* criteria will also need to meet the following *Needs-Based* criteria in order to qualify: *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



# What Can the CMHCs Do?

- **Become an Access Site!** There are communities that are currently without coverage.
- **Participate in the local Systems of Care.** If none exists, help start it!
- **Allow quick access to services for families determined to be in crisis.**