

Advancing Children's Mental Health Priorities

Policy Update

June 17, 2022



CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

Agenda for Today's Meeting

- Welcome
- Behavioral Health Policy Priorities
- Senate Finance Youth Mental Health Discussion Draft
- Congressional Landscape and How it all Works Together
- Call to Action
- Q&A

Behavioral Health Policy Priorities

Medicaid Rates	Increase critical Medicaid investments in pediatric behavioral health services, such as Medicaid parity with Medicare payment rates for similar services – discussing options for Medicaid support in SFC workforce workgroup
Workforce Development	Expand investments to support the recruiting, training, mentorship, retention and professional development of a diverse pediatric workforce in a wide array of settings across the care continuum – expect to be included in Sens. Casey/Cassidy bill
Continuum of Care	Bolster community-based systems of care to facilitate prevention, early identification and treatment and enhance coordination and integration of pediatric mental health care – expect to be included in Sens. Casey/Cassidy bill
Infrastructure Investment	Invest in pediatric mental health systems and infrastructure to expand care capacity – expect to be included in Sens. Casey/Cassidy bill
Telehealth	Facilitate access to mental health services for children through telehealth – included in SFC telehealth discussion draft and in House mental health package from E&C
Parity	Strengthen implementation and oversight of mental health parity requiring comparable coverage of mental health and physical health services – in House mental health package from E&C

Senate Finance Committee

Working Group Focus Areas	Co-Chairs
Strengthening the workforce	Sens. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and Steve Daines, R-Mont.
Increasing integration, coordination and access to care	Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., and John Cornyn, R-Texas
Ensuring parity between behavioral and physical health care	Sens. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Richard Burr, R-N.C.
Furthering the use of telehealth	Sens. Ben Cardin, D-Md., and John Thune, R-S.D. - Discussion draft released
Improving access to behavioral health care for children and young people	Sens. Tom Carper, D-Del., and Bill Cassidy, R-La. - Discussion draft released

Senate Finance Youth Mental Health Discussion Draft

- Released on Wednesday by Chair Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Sen. Carper and Sen. Cassidy.
- This is just one of 5 work groups to address the mental health crisis.
- CHA released a statement of support for the draft.
- Specific policies in this discussion draft advocated by children's hospitals include:
 - Requires oversight and enforcement of Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit to ensure children are receiving needed services from early identification through treatment.
 - Addresses barriers to coordinated care by allowing all providers to receive Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral and physical health services delivered on the same day.
 - Requires guidance to state Medicaid and CHIP programs to improve the provision of behavioral health services for children and additional publicly available data on mental health services provided under Medicaid.
 - Streamlines out of state enrollment for out of state Medicaid providers to ensure children receive timely care when needed outside their home state.
 - Supports mental health care in schools and family care services for children and youth in foster care by updating guidance and support for states to address challenges.
 - Requires Medicaid state plans to ensure that youth being discharged from juvenile justice settings are connected to Medicaid ahead of discharge and receive appropriate screenings, diagnostics and referrals.

Senate HELP Committee

- Chair Murray, D-Wash., and Ranking Member Burr, R-N.C., are working to reauthorize, improve and expand federal mental health and substance use disorder programs.
- Committee has held two hearings with a focus on the mental health crisis and the health care workforce shortage.
- Sens. Murphy and Cassidy are working on a bill on existing programs.
- Sens. Casey and Cassidy are working on a bill to create new pediatric-focused grants to address community-focused behavioral health needs, boost the pediatric behavioral health workforce and strengthen pediatric mental health infrastructure.
- **CHA has asked the committee to prioritize:**
 - Tailoring new policies and refining existing programs to meet the unique needs of children and adolescents.
 - Increasing and targeting investments to support recruitment, training, retention and professional development of a diverse clinical and non-clinical pediatric workforce.
 - Strengthening systems of care and removing barriers to ensure kids get the care they need.

Bipartisan Framework on Gun Violence Prevention

- 20 bipartisan Senators released a proposal around gun violence prevention and investments in youth mental health.
- Youth mental health investments outlined in the framework include:
 - Expansion of the community behavioral health center model.
 - Investment in mental health and suicide prevention programs.
 - Support for crisis and trauma intervention and recovery.
 - Funding for school-based mental health and supportive services.
 - Telehealth investments.
- Legislative text hasn't been released yet, so we don't know the details of the investments.
- We are hearing that the funding will focus on existing programs and be a one-time investment.

Behavioral Health Legislative Requests

H.R. 4943, Children's Mental Health Infrastructure Act

H.R. 4944, Helping Kids Cope Act

H.R. 1397/S.1798, the Telehealth Improvement for Kids' Essential Services (TIKES) Act

H.R. 7236 – Strengthen Kids' Mental Health Now Act

Call to Action

Contact your Senators now:

- Thank them for the focus on children and the proposed policies released to date.
- Ask them to contact Senate Finance Committee members and/or leadership to:
 - Keep these positive policies in the mental health package that advances AND
 - Add significant Medicaid investments for pediatric mental health services and workforce or we will not be successful in addressing the children's mental health emergency.
- Future action: Once the Casey/Cassidy bill is dropped (hopefully next week), we will reach out with a call to action to ask Senators to co-sponsor and weigh in with Senate HELP members and leadership.

July Mental Health Fly-In

- July 12 & 13 fly-in for C-Suite and behavioral health leaders to meet with congressional policymakers on children's mental health.
- Currently have 20+ hospitals attending.
- RSVP and room reservation links in June 13 email.
- Reach out to Leah or Elizabeth with any questions.
- Schedule:
 - **Tuesday, July 12**
 - Fly in day for participants
 - 4:00 p.m. – Briefing with CHA staff and participants to review priorities and talking points for Hill meetings
 - 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Thank you reception for our congressional champions at a location on Capitol Hill
 - 7:00 p.m. – Dinner on your own
 - **Wednesday, July 13**
 - 8:30 a.m. – Briefing at hotel with CHA staff and participants who missed the July 12, 4:00 p.m. meeting
 - All day – Hill meetings



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