

Indiana Council Child and Adolescent Committee Public Policy Statement

The Indiana Council Child and Adolescent Committee seeks to advance mental health for youth by establishing collaborations and promoting best practices within the State. We believe this will be accomplished through collaboration with other State entities (Department of Education, Department of Child Services, Juvenile Probation) through establishment of a data sharing network, by promotion of evidence-based cross training initiatives, and through utilization of braided funding models of care. Unfunded State mandates and limited financial reimbursement are current barriers to providing the highest quality of care.

A data sharing network would allow all agencies to work more efficiently and improve client care. At this time, DMHA and DCS are often paying for similar service processes independent of one another (CSR/QSR; SOC/Community Partners; CANs). Staff development is a critical need within the State. Joint evidence-based training initiatives and quality improvement processes would promote uniformity, quality and best utilize staff development funds. The establishment of a State model for braided funding for services at the local level would promote the maintenance of crucial mental health initiatives. Regular dialogue and cooperation among State Departments is essential to this vision. Reducing/preventing unfunded mandates and increasing funding for mental health services is also vital.

A better understanding of Department of Child Services (DCS) policies impacting attachment, trauma, adoption, and advocacy would be helpful in the provision of mental health services. We desire to work with DCS to promote the best possible outcomes for the children we mutually serve.