



# **Children's Mental Health Initiative**

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# The Problem...

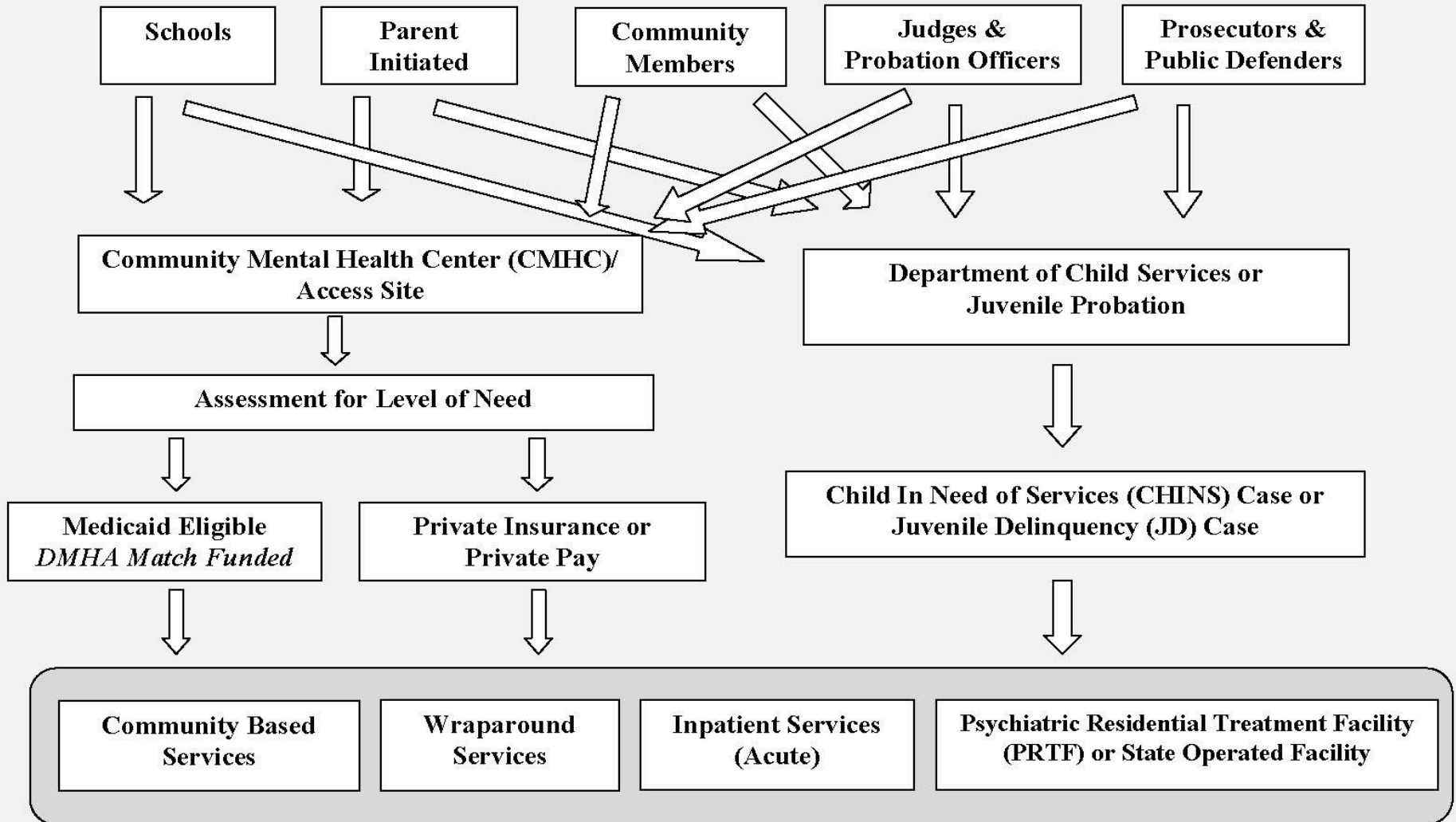
- **Some children struggle with significant mental health issues.**
- **Their families have difficulty accessing services (generally due to inability to pay).**



# The Problem...

- **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.**

# Current Process: Access to Children's Mental Health Services





# There must be a better way...

- **DCS and FSSA began meeting to brainstorm solutions.**
- **All agree that 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?**



# There must be a better way...

- **Need to remove silos!**
- **Needs to be simple!**
- **Needs to be a multiagency solution.**



# 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.**
- **State Agency Committee with 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.**



# Who can refer a child to Community Mental Health Access Site?

•Community Members

•Service Providers

•Schools

Prosecutors

Anyone

Anyone

Public Defenders

Judges

•DCS

Anyone

Health Care Providers

•Parent(s)



# 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...**



# **What happens when the family won't engage in 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.**



# Who will be Eligible

## 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...**



# On the mental health side...

## Needs-Based Criteria

**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:**

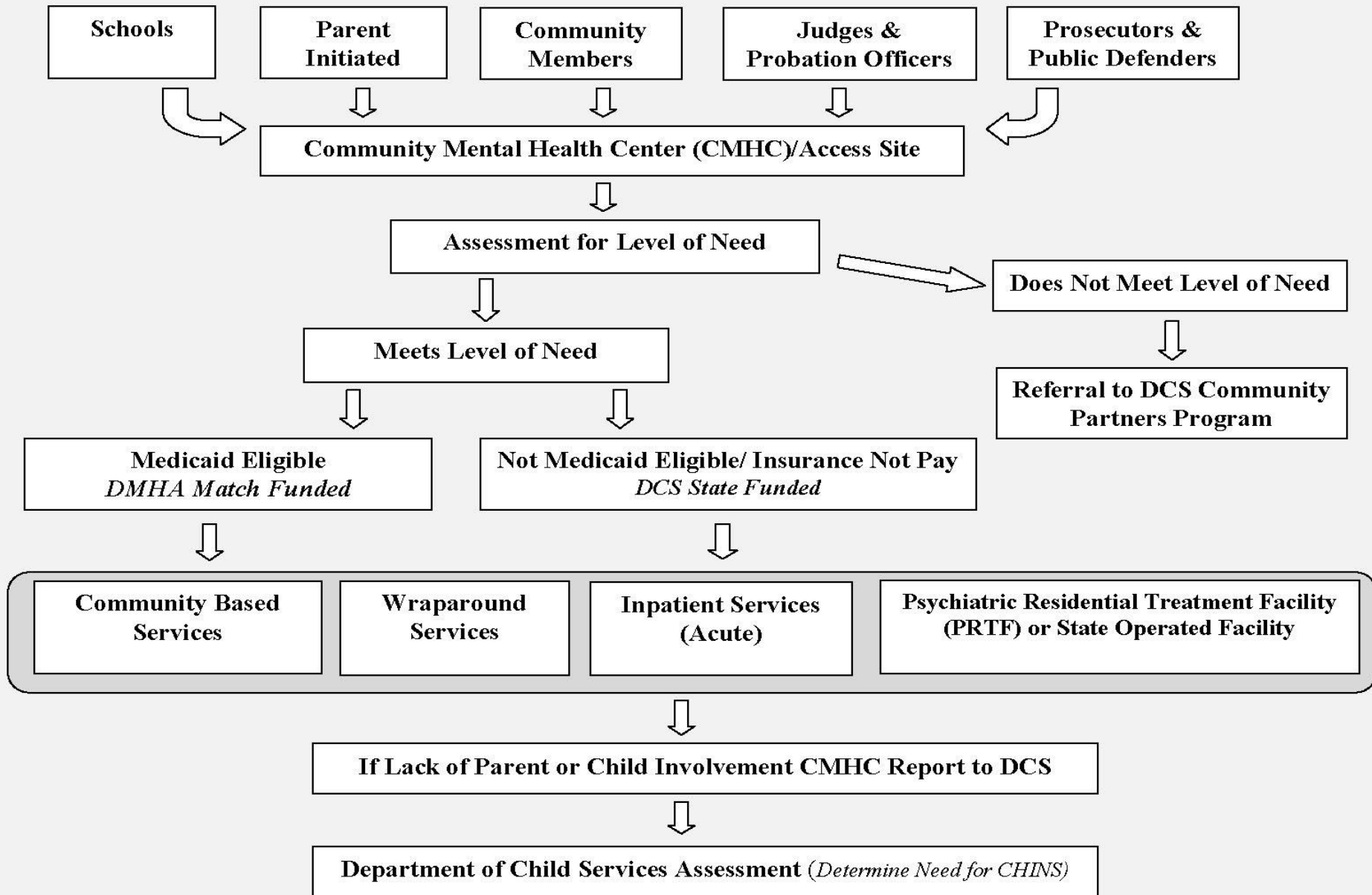
**Maladjustment to trauma    Psychosis    Debilitating anxiety**  
**Conduct problems    Sexual aggression    Fire-setting**

**Family Functioning and Support-** Family/caregiver demonstrates significant need in one or more of the following areas:

**Mental health**  
**Family stress**

**Supervision issues**  
**Substance abuse**

# Proposed Process: Access to Children's Mental Health Services





# Probation Youth

**If the JD/JS case is opened, the child should be served through available services under the JD/JS case (not the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Services Project).**

**An assessment for the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Services Project may be completed while there is an open JD/JS case.**

**When the condition of delinquency has been alleviated and the JD/JS case closes, the child may participate in the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Services Project.**





# Probation Youth

**If a JD/JS case is not opened, the child could be served through the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Services Project.**

**The assessment for the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Services Project may be completed before a decision is made whether or not to pursue a JD/JS case.**



# Family Evaluations



# **Family Evaluations**

## **The Philosophy...**

- **DCS will serve these families by providing a Family Evaluation by specially trained Family Case Managers**
- **DCS will provide service access to these families when the child is determined to be a danger to him/herself or others and the family does not have the ability or resources to access the services needed.**



# What is a Family Evaluation...

- Conducted to determine if services are needed in order to maintain the safety of the child or family members.
  - Looking specifically to determine what might need to be offered to maintain the child safely in his/her home.
  - When that is not possible, you will be reviewing if placement is an option. Your role is to connect the family to the necessary resources.
- Similar to an assessment, however, there are no allegations of abuse or neglect and no alleged perpetrators.
- In a Family Evaluation, the FCM will complete the Family Evaluation form.
- This is NOT an assessment for abuse or neglect.

