
SUPPORT CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Policy Brief

Oklahoma has the highest rate of serious mental illness in the nation. The lack of significant investment in early intervention in the mental health of our children and youth is a major contributor. For many families, finding appropriate services for their children is like piecing together a jigsaw puzzle. They are often unsuccessful and their children end up at great risk for out-of-school and out-of-home placements.

Partnership for Children's Behavioral Health

Responsibility for serving children with behavioral health needs (substance abuse and mental health) is spread across eight child-serving state agencies, which have voluntarily come together to create the Partnership for Children's Behavioral Health. This partnership has developed a coordinated, 5-year multi-agency plan to address the crisis in Oklahoma.

Components for Year One Budget Request

PREVENTION: \$2,300,000

Youth Suicide Prevention: Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth and young adults. The Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative is increasing community infrastructure to support the implementation of evidence-based services to reduce the rate of completed suicide and attempts, and increase "help-seeking behaviors" among young people. The Initiative will provide funding for 15 communities, tribal governments and universities to implement programs. *ODMHSAS FY 2010 request: \$800,000*

Prevention of Underage Drinking: Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for Oklahoma youth. Almost half of all youth report alcohol use (higher than the national average), with one in four drinking before the age of 13. Funding for this initiative will provide grants to 20 communities to implement a state plan to prevent youth access to alcohol, as well as providing training and technical assistance. *ODMHSAS FY 2010 request: \$1,500,000.*

EARLY INTERVENTION: \$500,000

Targeted Substance Abuse Programs: Children of addicted parents are the highest risk group to become substance abusers due to both genetic and family environment factors. They also are at higher risk for behavior problems and placement outside the home, for depression and anxiety, greater physical problems, and higher health and welfare costs. Through partnership with selected school districts in the state, ODMHSAS will implement the "Together With Communities" program, utilizing specialized training and educational programs to promote a healthier community for families, children, classmates and school officials. *ODMHSAS FY 2010 request: \$500,000*

RECOMMENDATION:

The 2009 Children's Agenda supports the Coordinated Budget Request of the Children's Behavioral Health Partnership that addresses the substance abuse and mental health needs of children 0-21 through a comprehensive, multi-agency collaboration, encompassing prevention, early intervention, community-based services, therapeutic foster care, group homes, inpatient and residential treatment. The budget request for Year One of this five-year plan is \$11,590,000.

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES: \$5,860,000

Expansion of Local Systems of Care: Systems of Care (SOC) is a comprehensive array of mental health and other support services organized into a coordinated network to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and teens with serious emotional disturbance and their families. There are currently 36 local SOC communities covering 41 counties. Oklahoma just received a second \$9 million federal grant to expand the program statewide. This grant requires the state to increase its matching dollars each year. *ODMHSAS FY 2010 request: \$2,000,000.*

Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment: Substance abuse addiction is a disorder devastating the lives of our young people. The consequences of untreated substance abuse for Oklahomans is enormous, including teen pregnancy, fetal alcohol and other related disorders, suicide, school and work failure, teen violence and criminal activity. The availability of outpatient treatment services for children and their families are limited within Oklahoma and needs to be expanded. *ODMHSAS FY 2010 request: \$500,000.*

Services for Children at Risk of Removal to DHS Custody: Oklahoma Children’s Services (OCS) provides comprehensive home-based services (CHBS) to child welfare clients. The number of families needing services has increased dramatically, resulting in a waiting list and difficulty accessing timely services. CHBS allows child welfare workers to assess the dangers inherent in homes and neighborhoods, and to create a safety plan for children at risk of removal and those in state custody. *OKDHS FY 2010 request: \$3,200,000*

Respite Care: Respite care is a short-term behavioral health intervention for children with serious emotion disturbances, designed to de-escalate a potential crisis situation and avoid hospitalizations. There are currently 84 children under the age of 21 who are receiving outpatient behavioral health services that would be eligible for respite care. *OHCA FY 2010 request: \$160,000.*

GROUP HOMES: \$1,000,000

Equalizing Group Home Rates: Level E residential services are provided to emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disordered children in OKDHS and OJA custody. These children typically have an aggressive propensity for going AWOL and require 24/7 supervision by trained therapeutic and direct service staff. The OJA group home rate is \$136 per day, and has not been raised for 17 years, resulting in low-wages and high staff turnover for these extremely vulnerable and at risk young people. This request is to increase the OJA group home rate to \$154 per day to match the OKDHS rate. *OJA FY 2010 request \$1,000,000.*

RESIDENTIAL AND INPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT: \$1,930,000

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment: It is during the adolescent years that most people become addicted to substances. Some 80-90% of the people with substance abuse dependence started using while under the age of 18 (half under the age of 15) and end up using for several decades. In Oklahoma, nearly 95% of youth needing substance abuse services do not receive those services due to lack of capacity. *ODMHSAS FY 2010 request: \$1,000,000. OHCA FY 2010 request: \$930,000. TOTAL: \$1,930,000.*

Area of Focus	Specific Program	Amount Requested / Agency
Prevention	Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative	\$ 800,000 to ODMHSAS
	Prevention of Underage Drinking	\$1,500,000 to ODMHSAS
Early Intervention	Targeted Substance Abuse Programs	\$ 500,000 to ODMHSAS
Community-Based Services	Expansion of Local Systems of Care	\$2,000,000 to ODMHSAS
	Outpatient substance abuse treatment	\$ 500,000 to ODMHSAS
	Services for youth at risk of removal to OKDHS custody	\$3,200,000 to OKDHS
	Respite Care	\$ 160,000 to OHCA
Group Homes	Equalize Group Home Rates	\$1,000,000 to OJA
Residential and Inpatient	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	\$1,000,000 to ODMHSAS
		\$ 930,000 to OHCA