

Support SB1633/HB2572:

Children/Young Adult Mental Health Crisis Act

Sen. Steans – Bush, Hunter, Fine; Rep. Feigenholtz – Conroy – Gong-Gershowitz

Illinois' Mental Health System for Youth Is Severely Limited

- Mental health treatment can mean wellness, recovery, school completion and becoming a healthy adult.
- When treatment is not available early enough to stabilize a child with a serious mental health condition: crisis, hospitalizations, justice involvement, and worsening symptoms occur.
- Restricted access to treatment results in unnecessary tragedy: Hundreds of children with treatable serious mental health conditions remain in hospitals beyond medical necessity every year; suicide; and custody relinquishment simply to access the appropriate mental health services.

Support SB1633/HB2572: Children/Young Adult Mental Health Crisis Act

This legislation fills in major treatment gaps in Illinois' mental health system for children and young adults.

- **Restructures the Individual Care Grant/Family Support Program (ICG/FSP)** for children/young adults with mental health high needs (regardless of type of insurance coverage) to streamline eligibility, promote family engagement, and enable early treatment
 - ✓ Enables presumptive eligibility for children up to age 26 with multiple psychiatric hospitalizations
 - ✓ Includes coverage of Medicaid mental health/substance use services to prevent out-of-home placement
 - ✓ Enables access to recommended, family-driven treatment, rather than a restricted set of program services
 - ✓ Grows short-term crisis beds and a limited number of high-acuity residential treatment beds
 - ✓ Allows for supportive housing model for young adults who need residential treatment to stabilize
 - ✓ Establishes family leadership councils, and creates family and provider awareness campaigns
- **Requires insurance coverage of evidence-based early treatment models for psychosis** and other serious mental health conditions for youth under age 30 to parallel coverage through the public sector.
 - ✓ Coverage sunsets in five years if an independent study shows rise in premiums of greater than 1%.
- **Provides for more robust treatment options under Medicaid for prevention/early treatment**
 - ✓ Allows preventative services for children without a diagnosis who demonstrate a treatment need
 - ✓ Strengthens In-Home Therapy to build family resilience/parenting skills for high mental health needs children
 - ✓ Creates mental health services guide to help families identify and understand treatment options
 - ✓ Provides for educational materials to be provided regularly to adoptive parents on treatment resources
 - ✓ Enables better substance use treatment re-engagement for people who haven't received services for a short period of time (allows the treatment case to remain open for 90 days)
 - ✓ Establishes workgroup in the Governor's Office to facilitate state agency alignment as Illinois implements the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, NB Consent Decree, and children's Medicaid residential treatment facilities.

Supporting Organizations

Adoption Advocates of America
Children's Home & Aid
Chicagoland Leadership Council
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance
Hope Meadows Intergenerational Community, Rantoul
Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living
Illinois Psychiatric Society
IARF (Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities)
Institute of Medicine of Chicago
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Live4Lali
Memorial Behavioral Health
Mental Health America of Illinois
Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois
Mental Health Summit
Metropolitan Family Services
NAMI Chicago
NAMI Cook County North Suburban
NAMI DuPage
NAMI Illinois
NAMI Lake County
NAMI McHenry County
NAMI Sauk Area
NAMI Schaumburg
Ounce of Prevention
Psychotherapy Action Network
Roscrance
Shriver Center, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Sinnissippi Centers
Transitions of Western Illinois
Thresholds