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275 East Main Street
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Promoting healthy children across
Kentucky. Building partnerships to
promote children's social and emotional
needs where they live, learn, and play.

January 4, 2016

Governor Matt Bevin
Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Bevin:

The State Interagency Council for Children (formerly known as the State Interagency Council for children with emotional disabilities) is a body established in 1990 by legislation with the goal of coordinated policy development, comprehensive planning, and collaborative budgeting for the purpose of developing community-based services and supports for children, youth, and young adults with behavioral health needs and their families.

For over 20 years, the members of the SIAC, which represent child-serving state agencies as well as families and youth, have convened to work toward this goal, with the past few years being an era of greatest growth and progress for the body, its members and those it represents.

Per KRS 200.505, the SIAC is required to consider issues regarding the provision of services for children with, or at risk of developing, an emotional disability and to cultivate services to meet the needs of children, and additionally, make recommendations annually to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the provision of those services.

Kentucky ranks 34th in overall child well-being, 32nd in economic well-being with 1 in 4 children living in poverty, 22nd in high school graduation, and has nearly 8,000 children in the foster care system. It is clear that modernization of the system of care for children and youth should continue to proceed, and should include all systems serving children (public and private). Modernizing the system of care requires strategic, multi-level partnerships and planning for change. It will also require leadership commitment from all levels of government to ensure the process is coordinated and collaborative, built on consensus, and is evidence-based and outcome-driven.

With this in mind, the SIAC respectfully submits the included recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rachel Bingham, SIAC Chair

State Interagency Council 2016 Recommendations

Per KRS 200.505, the State Interagency Council (SIAC) is required to consider issues and make recommendations annually to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the provision of services to children with (or now, at risk of developing) an emotional disability.

The SIAC recommends the following related to ACCOUNTABILITY and GOVERNANCE:

1. That the Chair of the Subcommittee for Equity and Justice for All Youth (SEJAY) of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board shall be designated as a permanent member of the SIAC.
2. That the Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Department of Corrections shall be appointed as permanent members of SIAC.
3. That the Service Array Continuum adopted by SIAC becomes a statewide standard of care in all communities throughout the Commonwealth.
4. That the integrated systems of care for children and adolescents are prioritized as the Commonwealth considers models of care.
5. That the Commonwealth provides accountability in the System of Care's shift from-out-of-home care to community-based services by:
 - Ensuring community-based services are implemented with fidelity;
 - Verifying community-based programs are providing the services they claim to be providing;
 - Identifying gaps in local provision of community-based services;
 - Establishing quality of care benchmarks among stakeholders;
 - Monitoring, reporting and comparing outcomes of community-based services; ,
 - Utilizing data-driven decision-making to establish next steps for specific services;
 - Repurposing out-of-home care facilities, as appropriate; and,
 - Ensuring the evidence based practices, screening tools, and other responses promoted for use with families and children are utilized with the *specific populations* on which those are proven effective.
6. That the Commonwealth endorses the Youth Bill of Rights, as approved by the SIAC, and include and consider these rights in the policies and practices of Kentucky's child-serving agencies and organizational operations.

The SIAC recommends the following related to DISPROPORTIONALITY:

7. That legislation being put forth by SEJAY to reduce racial disparities in the system of care is supported at all levels.
8. That all state child-serving agencies monitor disparity and disproportionate minority contact (DMC) through all points of contact throughout the System of Care by:
 - Promoting training focused on the history of DMC, current data in Kentucky, and strategies to overcome disparity and DMC;
 - Collecting and sharing DMC data at each point of contact throughout the System of Care;
 - Identifying and implementing needed changes in policies that may contribute to disparity and DMC; and,
 - Ensuring individuals from special populations and minority groups are included in all respective workgroups and committees.

The SIAC recommends the following related to FINANCING:

9. That funding to child-serving agencies is increased in order to expand evidence-informed practices across the Commonwealth that adhere to the Principles for Effective Intervention Model.
10. That funding is committed to the development of integrated data sharing platform to ensure care coordination across disciplines that provide services to children and adolescents.
11. That the Governor commit to continued fiscal modernization of the children's system of care that is rooted in evidence, outcomes and collaboration by supporting evidence-informed and evidence-based community based services for children and youth when developing the Commonwealth's biennium budget.

The SIAC recommends the following related to LEGISLATION:

12. That that KRS 200.501-200.509 be revised, as recommended by the SIAC, to modernize and align with recent reform efforts.

The SIAC recommends the following related to LEADERSHIP:

13. That the Governor selects leaders of child-serving agencies who are committed to a system of care that is coordinated, collaborative, built on consensus and is evidence-based and outcome driven.