

HB 422 Study: Children’s Mental Health Outcomes Continuum of Children’s Mental Health Services

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Background

Montana’s publicly funded children’s mental health system serves about 19,500 youth. Like the adult mental health system, it offers an array of services ranging from prevention and intervention programs to intensive inpatient treatment for youth who pose a danger to themselves or others.

The inverted pyramid below provides a general overview of the continuum of mental health services and – for purposes of this briefing paper only – describes “levels” of services. Level 1 and Level 2 services are provided in the least restrictive setting possible. As services go up in the level of intensity, they are provided to fewer people and in more restrictive settings.



