Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 9

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A System of Care for Children

Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

EXHIBIT 9
DATE Jan 11 2005
HB

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Introductions

- Chuck Hunter, Administrator
- Pete Surdock, Chief, Children's Mental Health Bureau

Presentation Overview

- Definition of a "system of care".
- History of systems of care effort in Montana.
- Legislative direction.
- Current effort.
- SAMHSA grant.
- Connections with other systems.
- Questions.

System of Care Definition

- "A comprehensive spectrum of health services which are organized into a coordinated network to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and their families."

Guiding Principles of a System of Care

- Interagency collaboration
- Individualized, strength-based care
- Cultural competence
- Child and family involvement at all levels
- Community based services and local decision making
- Accountability and data based decision making

HRD System of Care Philosophy

- Multi-program sharing of resources and responsibilities
- Full participation of professionals and families as active partners in planning, funding, implementing, and evaluating services and system outcomes.
- Cross program coordination of services, regardless of where or how children and families enter the system.

A little history…

- Senate Bill 454, 2001 Session (Waterman)
  - Multi-agency committee regarding high cost youth
- Senate Bill 92, 2003 Session (Stonington)
  - Directed development of statewide system of care for seriously emotionally disturbed youth
- Formation of the Child and Adult Health Resources Division – July of 2003
  - Medicaid Services
  - Children's Mental Health Services
  - Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP)
  - Children's Special Health Services

History continued…

- Report of President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health – July 2003
  - Mental health care is consumer and family driven.
  - Disparities between mental health and physical health services are eliminated.
  - Early mental health screening, assessment, and referral to services are common practice.
- System of Care conference in October of 2003
  - Articulated a clear call for a holistic system of care for children – one that bridged the gap between physical heath care and mental health care.
- Application for SAMSHA grant for systems of care for SED children – fall of 2003 – approximately $6 million in new federal funds over 6 years (we received the grant award in September of 2004).

SB 454 (2001)
Public Policy Statement

- "The legislature finds it is necessary to immediately direct coordinated efforts to provide services to children with serious emotional disturbances who are in need of integrated services from multiple agencies. The legislature directs that the respective agencies engage in unified planning to further develop a continuum of services to reduce the use of high-cost, out-of-home residential placements. The legislature directs that concentrated efforts be made to bring together the respective agencies that provide multi-agency services to children…these efforts are intended to parallel and supplement efforts to develop long-term structural changes in the public mental health system.