

Interim CFHHS Legislative Committee

HB 422

January 11, 2016

Children's mental health providers continue to meet and work on HB 422. There is growing consensus that a focus on robust quality improvement could have a broader positive impact on improving youth outcomes rather than a prescriptive approach. We also continue to voice our support for "simplicity" as an important guideline in the formulation and development of a pilot project.

**Following are some core components to consider for inclusion in a pilot project:**

- A children's system of care multi-agency approach focusing on integration of services and collaboration;
- A public health perspective to better understand the factors that shape the lives of at-risk children and families and the challenges they face;
- A robust quality improvement focus; and
- A data driven management approach for both accountability of both state agencies and providers.

**Following are some youth outcomes and system outcomes to consider for a pilot project:**

**Access**

Service initiation lag time  
Engagement in services  
Utilization and penetration rates  
Number of individuals receiving evidence based services  
Assessment of Suicide or Homicide Risk

**Effectiveness**

Reason for discharge  
Admission-discharge-follow up symptom change  
Changes in functioning level  
Client perception of care  
Stability of living situation  
Reduction in involvement with criminal justice or CPS system  
Re-admission rates for psychiatric care  
Stability of school situation  
Changes in critical incidents

• **Youth Outcomes**

- Youth Stability – living at home or in what out of home level of care
- Youth Productivity – in school or supported setting and progressing
- Youth Risk Behavior – not in trouble or in JJ system, drug/alcohol free, not pregnant
- Youth Relationships – with peers, families and other adults

**Efficiency**

Average length of stay  
Cost per program unit or per case

**Satisfaction**

Client satisfaction with services or workers  
Guardian satisfaction with services or workers  
Client/guardian grievances or complaints about care and treatment

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and your commitment to at risk youth and families. We look forward to continuing to work with the Interim Committee on this important project.