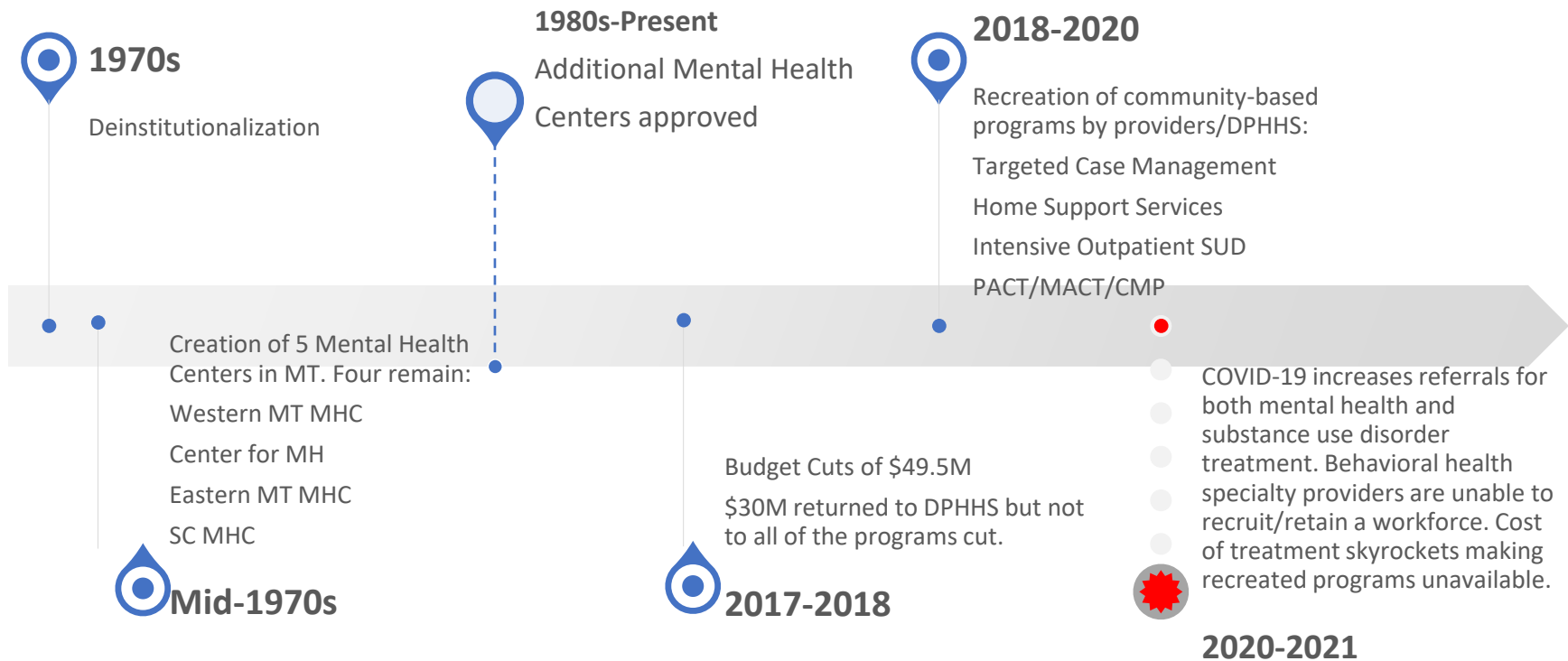


**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INTERIM COMMITTEE
MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS
November 15-16, 2021**

I. Timeline of Mental Health Centers in Montana:





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II. Current State:

1. Specialty Behavioral Health Centers (both mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treat 20% of the behavioral health issues primarily for adult Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) and children Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) populations.
2. Specialty Behavioral Health Providers are primarily reimbursed by Medicaid (80-95% of payor mix).
3. Montana Medicaid reimburses Behavioral Health Providers on a fee-for-service (FFS) system paying only for direct care, not the total cost of providing the care.
4. Only five states still use a fee-for-service model for Behavioral Health.
5. Reimbursement has not kept pace with the cost of living and rates have remained relatively stagnant.
6. Medical services are reimbursed on a Prospective Payment System (PPS) model and reimburse considerably higher than FFS.
7. Physicians receive a Medicaid Cost of Living Adjustment annually by statute. Behavioral health providers do not receive an annual increase but did receive 1% increase in the last session for the first time in years.
8. Behavioral Health Agencies are unable to compete for a workforce given the low rates of reimbursement but the need for services has escalated dramatically with COVID-19.
9. Children's group homes are closing. Increasing numbers of children are being sent out-of-state. Adult crisis response systems are overwhelmed.
10. With the crisis, funding has shifted to higher-cost, higher-acuity programs. Funding now needs to be used to increase community-based services and moved away from higher-acuity programs like acute care, out-of-state placement, etc. Therapeutic Group Homes, in-state Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, Home Support Services, Therapeutic Case Management, waiver group home providers need to be incentivized to hire and retain staff to shore up these programs.



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Children's Programs Cost Comparisons				
Program	Daily Cost	Avg LOS	Annual Cost	Notes
In State PRTF	\$337	120	\$40,440	Including required education costs = \$74,190
Out of State PRTF	\$448	12 months+	\$163,520	Including total cost of education = \$197,270
Education Costs	\$150	227 days	\$33,750	Education costs are in addition to PRTF in and out of state
TGH	\$249	325 days	\$81,068	Room and Board is \$49.62 and paid by CFSD, Youth Court or Family.
Provider Proposed HSS rate. Provider final rate was \$4/unit less.	\$22.50/15 min unit	12 months	\$14,040	Assuming 3 hours of service x 52 weeks – more than most families would receive.

PRTF = Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
 TGH = Therapeutic Group Home
 HSS = Home Support Services

III. Solutions:

- 1. Most importantly, create and fund programs in a continuum, not siloes, with medical and behavioral health providers at the table.**
2. There are different models that other states are using to expand their specialty behavioral health systems:
 - a. Certified Community Behavioral Health Systems (CCBHCs). Another panel is speaking to this model. BHAM has a grant from the Murdock Foundation to vet this model for Montana and there will be an opportunity for legislative, DPHHS, and stakeholder input starting in February 2022.
 - b. Change the fee-for-service (FFS) system to a Prospective Payment System (PPS) for behavioral health. This model is currently used for Federally Qualified Health Centers and medical care.
 - c. Value-Based Reimbursement. This model is a combination of PPS and some type of managed care.



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Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana Members:

Alcohol and Drug Services of Gallatin County

Alternatives, Inc.

AWARE, Inc.

Bitterroot Valley Education Coop

Boyd Andrew

Cedar Creek Integrated Health

Center For Mental Health

Charlie Health

Community, Counseling and Correctional Services

Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center

Family Support Network

Florence Crittenton

Frontier Psychiatry

Helena Indian Alliance - Leo Pocha Clinic

InStar Community Services

Intermountain

Kalispell Regional Medical Center Pathways

L'esprit Montana

Mountain Home Montana

Montana Community Services, Inc.

Partnership for Children Montana

Providence Behavioral Health Unit

Rimrock

Rocky Boy Clinic

Shodair

South Central Montana Regional Mental Health Center

Southwest Chemical Dependency Program

Sunburst

Western Montana Mental Health Center

Winds of Change

Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch

Youth Dynamics Inc.

Youth Homes

Board of Directors:

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Sydney Blair, Center for MH, Director

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Kathy Chavis, SUD, Director

Julie Fleck, Cedar Creek, Director

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