



State of Connecticut

Children's Behavioral Health Plan

Opportunities to Provide Input

Overview

At the end of the 2013 legislative session, the General Assembly passed Public Act 13-178, An Act Concerning the Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health of Youths. The Public Act called for DCF to produce a statewide children's behavioral health plan that meets the needs of all children in the state and prevents or reduces the negative impact on children of mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues. Below are the various ways in which individuals and groups can provide input into the planning process.

Network of Care Community Conversations

These two-hour listening sessions are organized in collaboration with existing support or interest groups. Facilitated by a Family System Manager and DCF administrator, these sessions provide an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and young people who participate in these groups to provide their perceptions regarding the strengths and areas for growth in the behavioral health network of care for children, young people, and families.

Information and Registration: To learn if a meeting is being conducted in your area or to obtain additional information contact Susan Graham at sgraham@favor-ct.org or (860) 309-4322.

Facilitated Discussions

These are two-hour moderated discussions on special topics that are particularly relevant to children's behavioral health. Most sessions are organized in collaboration with an existing committee or interest group that routinely focuses on one of the special topics. Participants include the members of these committees or interest groups with additional individuals included as space permits. Most Facilitated Discussions are co-led by representatives of CHDI and a parent or community member. The special topics covered in the Facilitated Discussions include: infant and early childhood mental health; early identification, prevention and early intervention; crisis response and management; the role of commercial insurance; substance abuse and recovery; autism, disabilities and other special populations; the child welfare system and mental health; the juvenile justice system and mental health; the education system and mental health; and integrated care. One meeting is held per topic in a central location within the state.

Information and Registration: Facilitated Discussions are scheduled about 30 days in advance. To obtain information about the schedule and to inquire about participation contact Jeff Vanderploeg by email at info@plan4children.org or by phone at 860-679-1542.

Regional Listening Sessions

These two-hour meetings are hosted by DCF administrators in each region of the state. The purpose of these Listening Sessions is to obtain feedback from the public about DCF services and the state's system of care and services for children with behavioral health needs. Notice of these meetings and invitations to attend are circulated within the regions by DCF.

Information and Registration: To learn if a group is being conducted in your area or to obtain additional information contact Tim Marshall at tim.marshall@ct.gov or (860) 550-6531.

Open Forums

These public forums are an opportunity for members of the public, including parents, other family members and providers, to voice their opinion on any issue related to Connecticut's system of care and services for children's behavioral health. These forums will be two hours in length and individuals will sign-up in advance to make a brief public statement at the meeting. The Open Forums will be co-facilitated by representatives of CHDI and a parent or community member.

Information and Registration: The dates and times of each upcoming forum will be posted online at: www.plan4children.org. To register send an email to Jeff Vanderploeg at info@plan4children.org or call 860-679-1542. Specify the forum at which you would like to speak.

Written Input

Whether or not you can attend one of the meetings about the plan, you can submit written comments about Connecticut's system of care and services and the behavioral health needs of the state's children and their families. Written input can be submitted by individuals or by groups and organizations. A form for submitting written feedback can be accessed at: www.plan4children.org. Email the completed form to: info@plan4children.org or mail it to the Child Health and Development Institute, 270 Farmington Ave., Suite 367, Farmington, CT 06032.

Information: For additional information email Jeff Vanderploeg at info@plan4children.org or call 860-679-1542.

Self-Guided Discussion Groups

Any group, committee, organization or association can use an existing meeting or schedule a special meeting to gather input for the plan. The form for written input, which is described above, can be used to summarize the input gathered during the meeting. Follow the instructions on the form for submitting it.

For additional information visit the plan website at: www.plan4children.org. If you have questions please contact Jeff Vanderploeg at info@plan4children.org or 860-679-1542.

