

# ***EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND UTILIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL PSYCHIATRIC CARE***

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## Introduction and Overview:

### *Utilization of Residential Psychiatric Care*

- Bring the Kids Home was a DHSS and Mental Health Trust project, to serve youth in Alaska, at the most normative level of care that met their needs.
- The Bring The Kids Home (BTKH) project ended in FY2014. Since that time, there has been a loss of in-state residential capacity for young children and concerns about access to outpatient support services for children with intensive needs.
- There has also been a steady, but slow increase in the number of out of state placements. This new project and planned meeting will provide an opportunity for stakeholders and DHSS staff to examine current data on outcomes for children, youth, and families, and discuss current services and strategies, gaps, and issues.
- Information from this meeting will also support the work of the Medicaid redesign activities around the 1115 waiver

# Qualis provides a Medicaid Data Set of Children & Youth in Out of State Care

- Recently, with work by staff at Qualis as well as Division of Behavioral Health, we have created a data dictionary to permit better understanding about children and youth placed into out of state care. Many of these variables are based on admissions questionnaires utilized by OOS providers
- There are approximately 119 column variables describing children/youth in out of state care between about 2014 & 2018. Approximately 8,000 rows of data indicate individual cases.
- We have begun analysis by basic demographics (such as age, race/ethnicity, and gender) and plan analyses by other relevant variables, focused on types and reasons for treatment/referral
- For instance, the data set describes primary diagnoses, level of cognitive functioning, autism diagnosis, and whether the placement is outside of Alaska, and more.
- Risk factors associated with Admissions are also collected in the data, such as suicide or homicide risk, flight risk, legal issues, and so on.
- This is the first time DBH has had access to these data set; there's potential for program change

# Data Sharing Agreements

- Another relevant development regarding understanding children in residential psychiatric treatment centers, are Data Sharing Agreements created by DBH with SDS & by DBH with OCS
- The purpose of these agreements is to allow these organizations to share and exchange information about children in these settings to identify opportunities for the Department to intervene earlier and more effectively with families and children coming into contact with behavioral health, child protective services, and senior/disabilities services
- Among the planned analyses include improving DBH understanding of lifetime involvement with SDS and OCS for children in RPTC and to identify risk and protective factors of child (mal)treatment, developmental disabilities, and behavioral health for the purposes of targeting behavioral health efforts
- The Division Directors of DBH, OCS, and SDS have signed the respective agreements.

# BTKH Follow-Up Meeting

- A meeting with children's providers is tentatively being planned for February 2019 in Anchorage to discuss residential psychiatric utilization (out-of-state and in-state). The purpose of meeting will be to better understand the population, identify their needs, identify gaps in the current system of care and to discuss strategies to meet the needs of the population. This information can also be utilized to inform the 1115 and ASO process.
- Discussion will include relevant follow-up on Bring the Kids Home (BTKH) and related programs and issues. We intend to examine relevant admission and discharge data from residential psychiatric and acute care facilities.
- We also hope to examine residential psychiatric population overlap with youth enrolled in OCS and SDS services.
- Steve Krall, Program Coordinator ( 907-465-2315) is the contact for this meeting.

# For further information

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