



Safeguard Behavioral Health Service Access & Capacity

Too often families struggle to find access to services for their children that experience a mental, emotional, or behavioral illness. The expansion of the array of behavioral health services, including prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery supports, and bolstering service capacity build a foundation for all Ohioans to access to services that promote health, wellness, and recovery.

Behavioral Health Redesign

Safeguarding behavioral health service access and capacity, rebuilding the system infrastructure, and addressing workforce challenges requires allocating funding for programs and services to support a public health response to the increasing rates of suicide and overdose deaths. The Medicaid behavioral health redesign initiative, if reasonably implemented, will add new and needed services, but it does not address workforce issues or fill all the gaps in care. The biggest challenge facing the behavioral health response is overcoming decades of underfinancing coupled with severe shortages of highly skilled and licensed professionals. To learn more, visit www.theohiocouncil.org.

Support a public health response to increasing rates of suicide and opiate deaths by maintaining investments totaling \$170 million over the biennium in needed services and supports through the HOPES initiative.



- Create and fund 6 regional mental health crisis stabilization centers and 9 regional withdrawal management (detox + early treatment) centers.
- Fund recovery supports to augment withdrawal management and acute treatment.
- Fund housing and/or rental/operating subsidies for individuals with behavioral health conditions that are hard to house.
- Increase capacity for child/adolescent inpatient psychiatric services by 100 fully staffed beds with 20 beds designated as “intensive care”.
- Expand access to peer services for children, youth and adults with mental illness.
- Universal prevention services provided in every Ohio school buildings.
- Establish a consumer hotline to collect information and help families understand and access their benefits.

Strengthen Ohio with healthy communities.