

Changes to 2007-2008 Proposed CHINS Legislation

Coordination of Community Service Agencies (CSAs) and Services

- The CHINS legislation filed during the 2007-2008 legislative session proposed the creation of a statewide community-based crisis intervention system. Community Service Agencies, organizations created under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), have since been developed to comply with the Rosie D. remedy. Currently, CSAs provide services to families with children diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance as required by Rosie D. The current proposed CHINS legislation will expand the role of CSAs to provide services to families prior to and currently in the CHINS system, and to act as a resource for the juvenile court and probation.
- When administering grants, the Secretary of EOHHS must give preference to the CSAs that promote efficiency and increased access to services
 - o At least one grant will be for the operation of CSAs in each of the 29 DCF services areas, and two grants for runaway treatment and prevention programs – one urban and one rural
- The Secretary will issue a request for proposals for the provision of CSAs
 - o Proposals must include a 3-year plan for development, implementation and coordination of services and plan for the establishment of a local advisory board
- CSAs may subcontract with other local providers as needed

Referrals

- School administrators must refer children or families to the CSA prior to expelling them.

Services

- Services will be provided for 120 days and may be extended for an additional 90 days
- Each family will have:
 - o A case manager who will develop a family service plan, which the family can accept or reject, within 10 days of the referral
 - o A service engagement team to help address barriers to the initial engagement of child and family
 - If the family and case worker disagree on the family service plan, the service engagement team will also work to develop a plan that can be agreed upon
 - o A case staffing team to assist the case manager in determining appropriate services, monitor the progress of the family and help the case manager develop an after care plan for the child and family. In the CHINS legislation proposed last session, the case staffing team also performed the duties of the service engagement team.
- In order to ensure adequate time for the case manager and family to discuss whether the goals of the service plan have been achieved, the current bill requires the convening of a resolution meeting by the case manager not more than 110 days after the assessment and screening of a child, or 10 days prior to extension of services. The proposed CHINS legislation filed last session required the convening of the resolution meeting 120 days after the assessment and screening of the child and family. This may result in lack of critical services until a decision regarding extension of services has been made.
- Insurance providers will be billed for covered services. The clients will pay for services that are not covered by insurance pursuant to sliding fee scale established by EOHHS.