McIntyre v. Howard, Progress of Kansas Department of Children and Families, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

Access to Mental Health Services · https://bridges4mentalhealth.org/hub/access-to-mental-health-services/mcintyre-v-howard-progress-of-kansas-department-of-children-and-families-kansas-department-of-aging-and-disability-services-and-kansas-department-of-health-and-environment-january-1-2023/

This report documents the progress the State of Kansas has made in response to a settlement agreement. A main tenet of the agreement was to improve access to mental health services. The State made continued progress in expanding the availability of crisis mental health services, and demonstrated a substantial improvement in screening children/youth entering care for trauma and behavioral health needs, though it did not achieve the Settlement Agreement standard for access to mental health services.

Strategies used to address the issue:

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Kansas's Children's Behavioral Interventionist (CBI) approach – intensive services for children and families struggling to manage behavioral and emotional challenges – became a new Medicaid covered service, significantly increasing the ability of families to benefit from this cost-effective, trauma-informed alternative to foster care and to help prevent placement disruption.
- Family Mobile Crisis Response Helpline

- Conducted a survey of foster parents to determine the level of awareness of the Helpline as a resource, and subsequently held informational training sessions in what they considered low call volume areas

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