

WACF Intensive Services Division 2019 Advocacy Agenda

History

Rates: Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) is a contracted therapeutic service for the highest needs children, youth and families served by the Division of Children, Youth and Families. The goal of BRS Services is permanency, safety and well-being. BRS services are described as ‘time-limited’ (although many cases are long-term) and occur in the following three settings: highly trained therapeutic foster homes, residential facilities, and in the family/kinship home.

The 2018 Legislature approved a rate increase for BRS residential settings (approx. 10%) and passed legislation requiring DCYF to ‘facilitate a stakeholder workgroup in a collaborative effort to design a behavioral rehabilitation services rate payment methodology that is based on actual provider costs of care’ and submit a report with the final work group findings and recommendations to the legislature by 11-30-18. The legislation also returned BRS to the caseload forecast and called for the development of a validated assessment tool to assess the care needs of foster children.

Legislative Priorities

1. Increase provider rates cover the full cost of care for Behavioral Rehabilitative Services consistent with results of 2018 BRS Rate Study.
 - a. Implement rate structure consistent with placement intensity for the highest needs youth BRS Placement Options: Family/kinship home, Therapeutic foster care, and facility-based programs.

Administrative Priorities

1. Collaborate with DCYF to insure adequate participation of WACF stakeholders in development of the rate study workgroup and in providing DCYF and contracted consultants thorough and reliable fiscal data for their evaluation.
2. Continue to focus efforts toward the development of a full continuum of interventions for BRS eligible youth including formalizing the ‘in-home’ service option both for prevention of placements and for family/kinship reunification efforts following out of home placement
3. Collaborate with DCYF in examining and exploring cooperative solutions to the critical shortages in care, particularly the high rate of hotel stays and out of state placements. *Reference: Office of Family and Children’s Ombuds 2018 Annual Report & Disability Rights WA “Let Us Come Home” Report and Recommendations*

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