



RETURN BRS TO THE DSHS FOSTER CARE CASELOAD FORECAST

HISTORY

Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) is a contracted therapeutic service for the highest needs children, youth and families served by the Children's Administration. The goal of BRS Services is permanency, safety and well-being. BRS services are designed to be short term, (four months to one year average duration), and occur in the following three settings: highly trained therapeutic foster homes, residential facilities, and in the family home.

The needed level of BRS therapeutic care and services is assessed by CA staff, based on intensity, duration and frequency of behaviors as well as history of abuse, neglect and trauma. This method of classification was established in order to match appropriate service levels to service needs. BRS services combine behavioral approaches with integrated, trauma-informed care, using evidenced based and evidence informed practice.

The number of available agencies in Washington State that can provide BRS services has been declining for some time due to the unpredictability of cost and utilization. Negative results of this lack of BRS service providers are: 1) the placement of youth in out of state programs, 2) youth receiving less intensive care than needed, with a revolving door into more restrictive care or the juvenile justice system and 3) inappropriate placements in foster homes unable to meet the treatment and, safety needs of the client. The best way to stabilize this system of care for these youth is to have the ability to forecast utilization and the number of youth and integrate it into annual strategic planning.

Currently, Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) is the only care for dependent children in out of home care that is not included in the DSHS Children's Administration forecasting. This creates significant problems because the number of children and youth in care varies from year to year, and their needs often become more intensive. By including BRS in the foster care forecast, funding can be adjusted to meet changing needs.

REQUEST

Return BRS to the Foster Care Caseload Forecast. If returned to the forecast, funding would be available to better ensure provision of appropriate care for the state's highest need youth in the child welfare system.

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