

Multi-System Youth Coalition

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OhioRISE Program Promises to Bring Better Care to Children and Families in Need

Comprehensive care strategies can improve outcomes, bring down costs

COLUMBUS, OH – The statewide Multi-System Youth Coalition looks forward to working with the state on the new OhioRISE program to ensure Medicaid coverage will improve children’s access to behavioral health services.

The MSY Coalition knows that many Ohio kids have significant behavioral health needs and/or developmental disabilities. For too many families, behavioral issues leads to the heartbreaking practice of custody relinquishment, where families with no history of abuse or neglect have no choice but to give up custody of their children in order for those kids to get the care they need. Once in the child welfare system, many kids end up in institutions, not family settings – including 40 percent of kids age 15 and older. Care for these kids right now can be costly, as often these children must rely on expensive emergency and inpatient care. OhioRISE promises to implement intensive care coordination and wraparound services - which has been a goal of the Coalition since 2016.

“The array of services OhioRISE proposes will make the decades of planning and working worth it. To be able to keep families involved throughout the process, and to finally be able to join our partners in state government in saying, ‘custody relinquishment is no longer acceptable as a treatment option in Ohio, for children and youth who need healing and support,’” said Gayle Channing-Tenenbaum, a consultant with The Center for Community Solutions.

OhioRISE proposes a comprehensive strategy to tackle the complex cases of multi-system youth so Ohio can improve its track record regarding custody relinquishment and out-of-state placements.

“The intensive coordination OhioRISE proposes is exciting and can work, drive down costs, improve outcomes and keep families whole with access to services like mobile crisis response, intensive home-based treatments, family and youth peer supports,” said Tara Britton, Director of Public Policy at The Center for Community Solutions.

If you would like to schedule an interview about the importance of this program please call or text Dani Carlson at 216-282-4583 or email at dcarlson@communitysolutions.com.