

2016 Legislative Wrap Up

Missouri KidsFirst

Appropriations

- **\$1.25 million for a new Medicaid code for evidence-based mental health services for children served by Child Advocacy Centers.**
 - Evidence-based mental health treatment models have been proven to reduce the long-term effects of trauma for children.
 - Low Medicaid reimbursement rates discourage providers from offering evidence-based treatment models.
 - Reimbursement for care closer to the actual cost of delivering evidence-based treatment will incentivize evidence-based practice and service provision to abused children.

Appropriations

- **\$408,000 for ten additional Children's Division workers to provide family assessments to youth with problem sexual behavior.**
 - Children's Division has been overwhelmed by the amount of hotline calls they have received related to youth with problem sexual behaviors or child on child sexual abuse as a result of Senate Bill 341 (passed in the 2015 legislative session).
 - This funding will allow the Division to hire ten additional staff to meet the demand of the law, ensuring safe and appropriate implementation of this new process.

Appropriations

- **\$200,000 to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to implement a trauma-informed schools initiative and pilot project.**
 - This funding will support DESE in providing resources, training and funding to school districts that are interested in beginning the process of becoming trauma-informed.

Legislation

- **Trauma-Informed Schools (SB 638)**
 - SB 638 contains provisions that require the DESE to create a Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative and Pilot Program in Missouri schools

Legislation

- **Confidentiality for Evidence in Child Sexual Abuse Cases (HB 1562) The bill:**
 - Prohibits Child Advocacy Centers, health care providers and multidisciplinary team (MDT) members from copying and sharing forensic interviews and medical exam photos of child sex abuse victims without a court hearing and a protective order.
 - Allows sharing without a court order among MDT teams and with other groups with a legitimate interest and responsibility in investigating child abuse.
 - Allows for sharing with the defense as required by Supreme Court Rule but prohibits the defendant from having a copy of the evidence.
 - Insures forensic interviews in court records of sexual assault victims that are closed and prohibited from public disclosure after trial.

Thank you

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