

# Strengthening the Behavioral Health Workforce for Children, Youth, and Families: A Strategic Plan for Connecticut

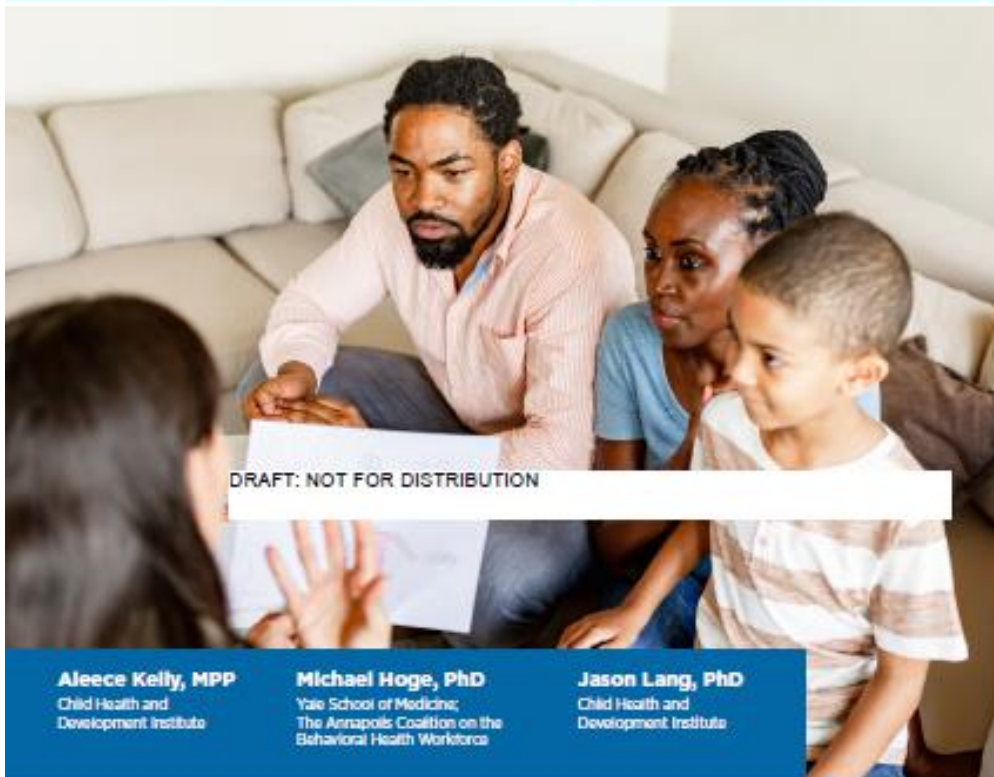
## FY24 Update

Presentation to the Children's Behavioral Health Plan  
Implementation Advisory Board  
June 17, 2024

# Strengthening the Behavioral Health Workforce for Children, Youth, and Families

A Strategic Plan for Connecticut

OCTOBER 2023



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**Aleece Kelly, MPP**

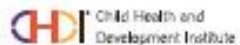
Child Health and  
Development Institute

**Michael Hoge, PhD**

Yale School of Medicine;  
The Annapolis Coalition on the  
Behavioral Health Workforce

**Jason Lang, PhD**

Child Health and  
Development Institute



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*This report was produced by CHDI in collaboration with the Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board with funding from the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families.*

# Project Overview

Strategic plan with recommendations to address short- and long-term solutions regarding:

- Workforce pipeline
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Diversity
- Competencies

Funded by DCF

Consultation from Dr. Michael Hoge

# Process

## Advisory Group:

- Representative of wide range of stakeholders
  - Provided guidance throughout process and reviewed draft recommendations
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- Stakeholder survey (200 responses received)
  - Review of national and out-of-state innovative models (40 different initiatives from 14 states)
  - Inventory of Connecticut efforts
  - Key informant interviews (20 interviews)

# Recommendations

Recommendations	Progress
Increase reimbursement rates for children's behavioral health services to cover actual costs of high-quality care and establish a transparent and systematic rate-setting process.	<p>\$7m allocated for children's behavioral health Medicaid rate increases (FY24)</p> <p>Medicaid rate established for UCC services</p> <p>PA 24-110 requires reimbursement rates for telehealth to be equal those of in-person</p>
Make immediate and significant investments in behavioral health workforce recruitment and retention.	

# Recommendations

Recommendations	Progress
Develop a children's behavioral health workforce center that can track and respond to trends in supply and demand and sustain workforce development efforts.	
Grow and diversify the children's behavioral health workforce pipeline.	CT Health Horizons (continued) Student Loan Repayment Program
Increase behavioral health training across the child-serving workforce.	
Remove administrative barriers to workforce entry and retention.	PA 24-30 participation in multi-state social work licensure compact

# Recommendations

Recommendations	Progress
Expand the youth and family peer support workforce.	[PA 24-19 adult services only – peer-run respite centers]
Expand the role and capacity of community-based organizations in prevention and early intervention	

# Questions for CBHPIAB Members

1. Is there any additional progress on recommendations that wasn't captured?
2. What recommendations should be prioritized in FY25?
3. What is the role of the CBHPIAB and individual members in making further progress on recommendations?



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**Thank you!**