

# SCDHHS Behavioral Health Redesign:

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# SCDHHS Overview

- Behavioral health redesign is an agency priority
- A variety of elements from school-based mental health, previous moratoriums on provider enrollment, residential treatment facility services to evidence-based practices are being explored
- SCDHHS's contractor, Mercer, held stakeholder interviews and has provided SCDHHS with a preliminary gap analysis of mental health services
  - Project Goals:
    - Increase access to mental health services in schools
    - Increase network capacity
    - Increase quality of care

# Focus Group Discussion

1. Based on the summary of information provided (SCAAP Mental Health Action Plan and QTIP summary), do you agree with these findings?  
What is missing?
2. Identify your greatest barrier to treating/seeking services for children with mental health needs.
3. Thinking about services needed to best serve your pediatric patients with mental/behavioral health needs: what would be a “**game changer**” for your office/practice to better serve these youth?

# Focus Group Takeaways

## BARRIERS:

- Timeliness of appointments/ availability of psychiatrists and counselors
- Lack of information following discharge from inpatient settings
- Need for continued Telehealth flexibilities
- Payment options needed for integrated care/ BH navigators/ care coordination
- Need for specialty services (ex. Eating disorders, autism, older adolescents transitioning to adult care)
- Need for more preventative community programs

# Proviso 117.154

Assess existing gaps in coverage of behavioral health services, and based upon this assessment, will establish coverage and reimbursement policies that are necessary to address existing deficiencies and bring about a more comprehensive and effective continuum of behavioral health care in South Carolina.

Priorities for this effort may be piloted on a regional basis and shall include but are not limited to:

- Increasing the number of inpatient psychiatric beds for adults and children
- Establishing crisis stabilization units within a 90 minute drive of each South Carolinian
- Expanding mobile crisis stabilization services
- Developing a dedicated psychiatric emergency department
- Developing effective referral and discharge strategies to ensure sufficient outpatient services, case management services, and standards of care are in place
- Building upon existing telehealth capacity to support and extend outpatient services
- Development of in-state treatment options for specific BH conditions (ex. Eating disorders)
- Exploring psychiatric hospital bed tracking system

# School Based Services

During his State of the State Address in January 2022, Governor McMaster gave an executive order to SCDHHS to review school mental health services in SC.

Reviews were done on current service providers, as well as a survey was done of all School Districts.

Our review showed two main findings:

- There is a huge need for these services
- There is a lack of providers available to render these services

Additionally, survey results from the districts indicated many school districts expressed a desire to employ their own counselors.

To incentivize licensed counselors to work in the schools, SCDHHS raised the reimbursement rates for 6 core services as long as those services were delivered in the school setting.

As of July 1, 2022, new providers can enroll to be a Medicaid Provider if they are subcontracted to provide these services in a school setting.

School Districts are encouraged to hire their own counselors to help incorporate them into the school environment.

