



Improving Access to Intensive Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families

NYS OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH
NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Agenda

- Welcome
- Brief Presentation – The Children’s Mental Health Settlement (20 minutes)
- Breakout Groups - Share your Feedback (60 minutes)
- Wrap-Up and Next Steps (5 minutes)

For closed captioning: Select “Show Captions” from the Zoom menu and then from the settings icon, select “Pop out overlay”

Why Are We Here?

New York State is developing an Implementation Plan to improve intensive mental health services for children and youth.

We have 18 months from January 15, 2026, to develop the plan.

We must include detail on implementation of targeted services.

Today's conversation is the first step.

Your Voice Matters

Feedback from stakeholders, including youth and families, will help us:

- Identify what matters most to children, youth, and families
- Find the best approach to achieve the goals of the settlement
- Improve services for children, youth, and families



We Would Like Your Input

As planning continues, we are looking for feedback in four areas:

1. **Family/Youth Experience:** How can we make it easier for children and families to get the right help?
2. **Service Design:** What should these services look like to best meet community needs, including cultural, racial, LGBTQIA+, and ethnic diversity?
3. **Implementation:** What challenges should we plan for?
4. **Success:** How will we know these changes are making a difference?

Breakout sessions today are designed around these four questions.



Office of
Mental Health



Department
of Health

Children's Mental Health Settlement Overview

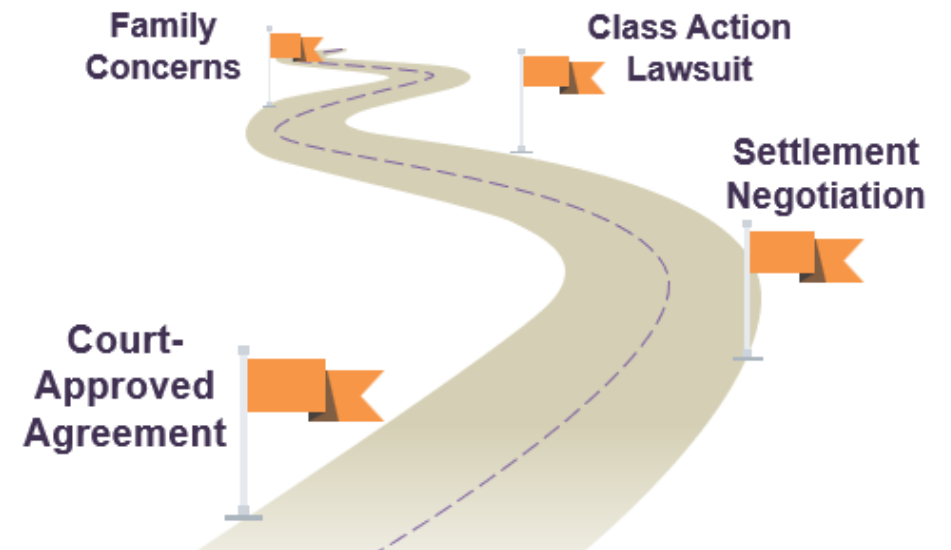
How Did We Get Here?

Families of children with intensive mental health needs raised ongoing concerns about gaps in care. This led to legal action and ultimately a binding agreement with the State.

Key Family Concerns that Drove the Lawsuit

- Challenges navigating the system and accessing the right mental health services
- Major delays in receiving care
- Children forced to seek hospital-level care due to lack of adequate community-based services

Path to Settlement Agreement



Settlement Overview

The Implementation Plan will describe how NY will:

What Will Change for Children, Youth, and Families?



Identify children who need intensive mental health services using a **standardized screening or assessment**



Increase the availability of qualified providers



Expand access to intensive services available in homes and communities



Track whether services are **meeting the needs** of children and youth



Improve information and support for families, providers, and communities

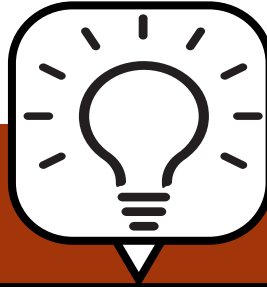
Today's discussion is an opportunity to share your experiences and help inform the plan.

Pathways to Care: Identification and Eligibility



What We Need to Do

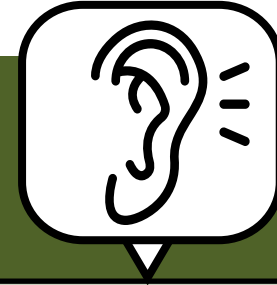
Develop consistent procedures statewide to identify, screen, assess, refer and link children for possible eligibility



What We Know is Important

Ensuring that youth and families do not have to tell their stories multiple times

The process needs to be easy to access, understand, and complete



What We Need to Hear from You

What places and people do families often reach out to get help for their child and/or their mental health needs?

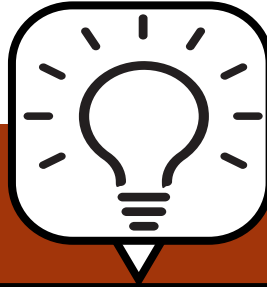
What are the barriers youth and families face when trying to access care or an assessment for eligibility?

Pathways to Care: Education



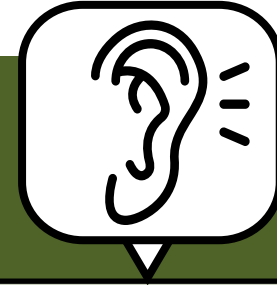
What We Need to Do

Educate providers, the community, counties, and families about the paths to eligibility



What We Know is Important

Making it easier for youth, families, and providers to understand the mental health system and know where to turn for help



What We Need to Hear from You

How best to inform and educate youth & families on services

How to make sure all communities receive this information

How best to educate providers and other child and family-serving systems

Targeted Services for Youth and Families

Youth and Families may receive different combinations of services over time as their needs change.



Intensive Care Coordination

Approach based on the model of High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW). HFW is a flexible, evidence-based care coordination process for youth with complex mental health needs



Intensive Home-Based Treatment

Intensive mental health treatment delivered in the home and community multiple times a week using evidence-based models



Home and Community-Based Services

For youth at high risk, added supports to ensure the child/youth can remain at home and avoid hospitalization or residential treatment



Mobile Crisis Services

Rapid, community-based response when children and youth are experiencing a mental health crisis

Targeted Services for Youth and Families

	 Intensive Care Coordination	 Intensive Home-Based Treatment	 Home and Community-Based Services	 Mobile Crisis Services
What We Need to Do:	Create two tiers of intensive care coordination	Create an intensive level of mental health treatment	Develop supports to keep children at home and in their communities	Expand Mobile Crisis services so they are accessible 24/7
What We Know is Important:	Services are guided by the needs of the youth and family	Services support the youth and family	Respite is an important support service for youth and families	Children and families define what a crisis is for them
What We Need to Hear from You:	What aspects of care coordination are most important?	What's important to know when providing these services?	What other supports are needed to keep a child in their home?	When is it most important to have Mobile Crisis available?

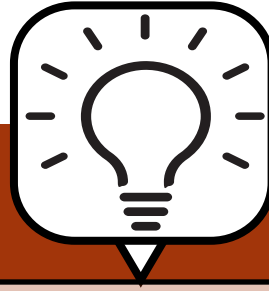
Youth and Family Peer Support Services

Youth and Family
Peer Support
Services



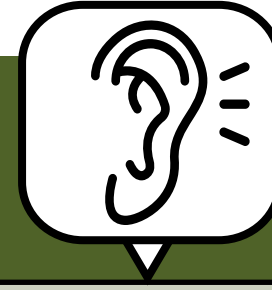
What We Need to Do

While not named in the Settlement Agreement, we need to expand Youth and Family Peer Support Services across New York



What We Know is Important

Peer Support offers hope, understanding, and guidance from people with lived experience



What We Need to Hear from You

When has peer support helped you or your family?

When and where should peer support be available?

Questions & Discussion

Breakout Session Instructions

- We welcome input from EVERYONE - youth, families, providers, and community members. Every voice matters!
- Join a breakout group to discuss questions and share your ideas and feedback. Breakout groups have been pre-assigned in Zoom.
- Each group will have a facilitator for the questions and discussion, and a notetaker to collect all feedback.
- You will have 60 minutes for answering questions and discussion.
- If you prefer not to join a breakout, you can share your feedback by completing a web-based survey using this QR code:



Next Steps

The feedback and ideas that are shared with us will be used to support the development of an Implementation Plan for the services.

OMH and DOH plans to host a community webinar in the fall to share what we have heard.

Other ways we are informing the Plan are:

- Researching other States that have created similar Plans to see what has worked best to meet the needs of children, youth, and families
- Using a national expert to guide our work and share her knowledge and experience with other States
- The attorneys representing the plaintiffs, who have also worked with other States, are actively lending their knowledge and expertise
- Collecting input from the Implementation Advisory Committee. Members represent child-serving systems, local government, provider organizations, advocacy groups, community organizations, and individuals with lived experience (youth and caregivers)

Stay Connected

Go to our Webpage at:

- <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/childservice/mental-health-settlement.html>

You will find:

- More information about the [Children's Mental Health Settlement Agreement](#), including the Class Notice and full Settlement Agreement document
- Instructions on how to join our email list to receive updates
- Additional information as developed
- Email mailbox: ChildrensMHSettlement@omh.ny.gov



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