

# Governor Mills' Children's Cabinet

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
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# Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children: All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

## Access



Increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families.

## Quality



Raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming.

## Workforce



Recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce.



# Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: All Maine Youth Enter Adulthood Healthy, Connected to Workforce and/or Education

## Basic Needs



Ensure basic needs of youth and their families are met.

## Prevention



Increase prevention services and programming in schools and at the community level.

## Treatment



Increase access to needed behavioral health, including substance use disorder, screenings and treatment.



# LD 155 Working Group

**LD 155 Language for Working Group**: Establish a working group that includes the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services to promote coordinated policies, finances, programs and service delivery systems to support juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system

**Participants include** representatives from:

- DOE's Office of Student and School Supports and Maine School Safety Center
- DHHS's Commissioner's Office, Office of Child and Family Services and Maine CDC
- DOL's Vocational Rehab, WIOA and Pre-Apprenticeship/Apprenticeship
- DOC's Juvenile Services
- DPS Training Programs

# LD 155 Working Group

The Children's Cabinet has set a goal of ensuring that all Maine youth enter adulthood healthy and connected to the workforce and/or education . The state agencies are focused on coordinating, supporting and strengthening programming for Maine youth who may be at risk of entering or are involved in the juvenile justice system.

## Three Areas of Focus:

1. Support and strengthen **prevention and diversion programs** in schools and communities to keep young people out of the juvenile justice system.
2. Increase access to **intervention and treatment programs** to address the behavioral health needs of youth.
3. Ensure **support and reintegration programs** are available to help justice-involved youth successfully transition to adulthood and participate fully in their communities.



## Key Initiatives and Partnerships

### Schools and Health Care

**Expand and align behavioral health screenings**, including screenings for mental health and substance use disorders, in schools and across state agencies to ensure early identification and referral to services.

- Pilot of **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)** technique with schools with School Based Health Centers..
- Coordinated effort led by DOE with coordination with DHHS to develop a **universal screening for schools**.

Increase the **capacity of schools to provide direct mental health services and referrals** to more intensive treatment services.

- Expansion of **School Based Health Centers** to a total of 20 sites with 10 sponsoring health care providers.
- **Tele-behavioral Health Pilots** at 7 schools. Funding supports Community Health Workers to coordinate with staff, parents and students, help students to access tele-behavioral health services.
- **Expand Access in School Environments (EASE) Maine** grants to nine high-need school administrative units (SAUs) to support efforts to recruit and retain mental health providers and expand services to students
- **Stronger Connections Grants** provides 14 grants to SUA to expand virtual mental health services and promote safer, more inclusive, and positive school environments for all students, educators, and school staff.



# Restorative Practices & Youth Development Organizations

- Provide tools to school staff, teachers and administrators to strengthen restorative practices within our schools.
  - With funding from Maine CDC, Maine Youth Action Network and Maine Prevention Network Partners offer **trainings on the “basics of restorative practice”** to teachers and other professionals working with children as well as working with young people to advocate for restorative practices in their schools.
  - The DOE led program **“Creating a Culture of Care in Schools”** focuses on training all school staff to create a restorative school culture by emphasizing relationship from both a preventative and responsive
- Provide support to youth development organization effectively serving and providing out-of-school programming and positive outcomes for youth who may be disconnected and disengaged from school and other institutions.
  - Maine Recovery Council announced \$1.5 million to **youth development organizations** over the next two years to support SUD prevention efforts.
  - **Improving Outcomes for Youth**, overseen by OCFS, provides grants to out of school programs for youth, with focus on youth experiencing hardship, to improve employment, independence, stability, health and wellbeing, and quality, permanent connections of youth and families.



# Career Exploration & Workforce Development

Connect youth to opportunities to **explore careers, participate in effective job readiness programming and meaningful paid work experiences**, and understand access points to post-secondary education and training programs.

- **Pre-apprenticeship programming** provides hands-on training in a work place or work-based learning environment. Prepare to participate in an Apprenticeship. DOL is targeting underrepresented and historically marginalized and disadvantaged populations.
- **WIOA Youth program** provides employment and training services to in and out of school ages 14-24.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation "VR"** assists young people (ages 14+) with disabilities (including with behavioral health needs) to explore careers and prepare for employment through age-appropriate work-based learning, post-secondary exploration, paid work experience and other services.





# Career Exploration & Workforce Development

- **Career Exploration Program** provides grants to 5 Community Based Organizations serving **historically disadvantaged youth**. Provide job readiness training and paid work experience. In the first year, almost half of the 212 participants were youth of color. 38 in the juvenile justice system.
- **DOE's Extended Learning Opportunity Programming** to 25 high schools. ELO programs engage juniors and seniors in career awareness activities and work-based learning. Make connections between academics and work. Estimate about half of the 1,514 students participating in the first year of ELO programming were economically disadvantaged.
- **Opportunity Passport Program operated by JMG** provides current and former foster youth with comprehensive school drop-out prevention and a school-to-work system tailored to each participating youth. Through core programming, one-on-one teaching as well as group support. Supporting credential obtainment, post secondary education, employment, job training and military enlistment.
- **SNAP E&T for 16 to 18 year olds** provides employment and training services and participant supports to remove barriers of completing these programs. Services such as job search training, vocational and educational (post-secondary) training, work experience and apprenticeships are available.



## Behavioral Health Services

Provide intensive, evidence-based in-home and family-based behavioral health and coordinated care services for youth with the goal of keeping youth in their homes and communities.

- **Aftercare services** are available and provided to a youth and their parents and/or caregivers by a Family Transition Specialist for 6 months after a youth is discharged from a Children's Residential Care Facility (CRCF).
- **Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)** is a targeted psychotherapeutic approach that helps children and adolescents address the negative effects of traumatic stress. Training was provided to clinicians across the state.
- **Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach** is a developmentally appropriate behavioral treatment for youth and young adults with substance use disorders. A-CRA seeks to increase the family, social, and educational/vocational reinforces to support recovery. (Providers are being trained in A-CRA.)
- **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** is a family strengths-based clinical assessment and intervention model built on a foundation of acceptance and respect.
- **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)** is an intensive Family-based treatment that addresses the determinants of serious disruptive behavior in members and their families.



## Behavioral Health Treatment, Supports and Recovery

Expansion of intensive, evidence-based in-home and family-based behavioral health programming in 2024:

- **High Fidelity Wrap Around Services** will address the needs of children involved in multiple systems.
- **Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)** is home and community-based therapeutic modality designed to treat youth experiencing substance use and mental health concerns with a family-centered approach.

Strengthen and expand peer support and recovery programs for youth.

- **Youth-guided services** which utilize the Peer Support model to support Peers with their mental health to promote Recovery, Resiliency, and improve Wellness. (Maine Behavioral Health)
- **Youth peer recovery services** will provide recovery services to adolescents with or affected by substance use disorder (SUD) and/or other addictions in Maine. (Being developed)



## Juvenile Justice System

- Enhance training for law enforcement officers on adolescent development, ACES, trauma response in youth.
- Support the Youth Advocates Program and credible messengers at the community level to mentor and establish supportive relationships with youth.
- Develop consistent and expanded diversion practices statewide.
- Reform probation to be more individualized and incentive-based, focusing on building up the strengths and the supporting needs of the youth to be successful.
- Reform classification system in Long Creek Youth Development Center with the goal of preparing youth to successfully transition back into the community. i.e, Girl's Unit utilizes the Trauma-Informed Effective Reinforcement, T.I.E.R., System, Boys use Phase and Level system

Questions?