

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Subject:

Evidence-Based Outcome Measurements for Mental Health Programs

Comment:

Finance Committee, we listened to your very thoughtful discussion about outcome measurements for CSCT and other mental health programs. Since the budget cuts of 2017, all of the programs that BHAM and DPHHS have recreated have included a requirement of using an evidence-based national outcome measurement tool. For children's programs, CSCT, Targeted Case Management, and Home Support Services, are all required to track outcomes using the CASII/ECASII tool. This tool was created by the American Academy of Children's and Adolescent Psychiatrists and tracks the child's progress. CSCT is only available for children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance Diagnosis. Montana, in the past, has implemented Montana created outcome measurements that are not evidence-based and not benchmarkable nationally so providers and the state had no idea how effective the programs actually are. BHAM has also created a database for tracking quality outcomes for programs so that we can report accurate data to the state. You can review the evidence-based tool now used for children's programs at this site:

https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Member_Resources/Practice_Information/CASII.aspx We would be happy to present to you with DPHHS on this important progress for mental health programs in Montana. Mary Windecker, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana

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