



Medicaid and School Mental Health

December 13, 2022



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



National Center for School Mental Health

MISSION:

Strengthen policies and programs in school mental health to improve learning and promote success for America's youth

Focus on advancing school mental health policy, research, practice, and training

Shared family-schools-community agenda

Funded in part by the
Health Resources and
Services Administration

www.schoolmentalhealth.org
www.theshapesystem.com



Facebook.com/
CenterforSchoolMentalHealth



@NCSMHtweets



Lena O'Rourke

Principal and Founder, O'Rourke Health Policy Strategies



Scott Hutchins

School Mental Health and Medicaid Consultant
Michigan Department of Education



Kevin Baur

Medicaid Policy Specialist, Michigan School
Services Program



Tanya Schwartz

Managing Principal of Medicaid Policy & Programs, Aurrera Health Group



Julia Smith

- Senior Director, Medicaid Policy & Financing, Aurrera Health Group

Meeting the Moment: Momentum for School Medicaid

Lena O'Rourke, on behalf of Healthy Schools Campaign
December 13, 2022



About Healthy Schools Campaign

**HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN**

What is Medicaid?

- Comprehensive health insurance
 - Medicaid covers all medically necessary physical and behavioral health services for children and adolescents
- Covers millions of people, including children and adolescents
- Costs shared by the state and federal government
- States make decisions about administration, eligibility, services, coverage, and beneficiary protections—and CMS approves the decisions

Background on School-Based Medicaid

- For 30 years, Medicaid has paid for eligible school physical and behavioral health services included in students' Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- While Medicaid spending on school-based health services represents less than 1 percent of total Medicaid spending, it's significant for schools

Models for Delivering Medicaid Services in Schools



Models for Delivering Medicaid Services in Schools



Current Status of School-Based Medicaid

Medicaid can pay for school-based physical/mental health services if:

- The student is enrolled in Medicaid;
- The services provided are covered by the state;
- Services are delivered by a qualified provider that is recognized in the Medicaid state plan; and
- States have appropriate billing, documentation and oversight mechanisms in place.

Game-Changing Federal Momentum

- Schools and student mental health in State of the Union
- Joint statements from HHS Secretary Becerra & ED Secretary Cardona
- Historic one-time investments in K-12 schools, COVID-relief and ESSER funding

Seizing the Opportunity

- Many states are considering expanding school-based Medicaid—including Maryland
- Several models being considered in how to design school-based Medicaid programs
- Biden Administration is actively working with states considering expanding school-based Medicaid

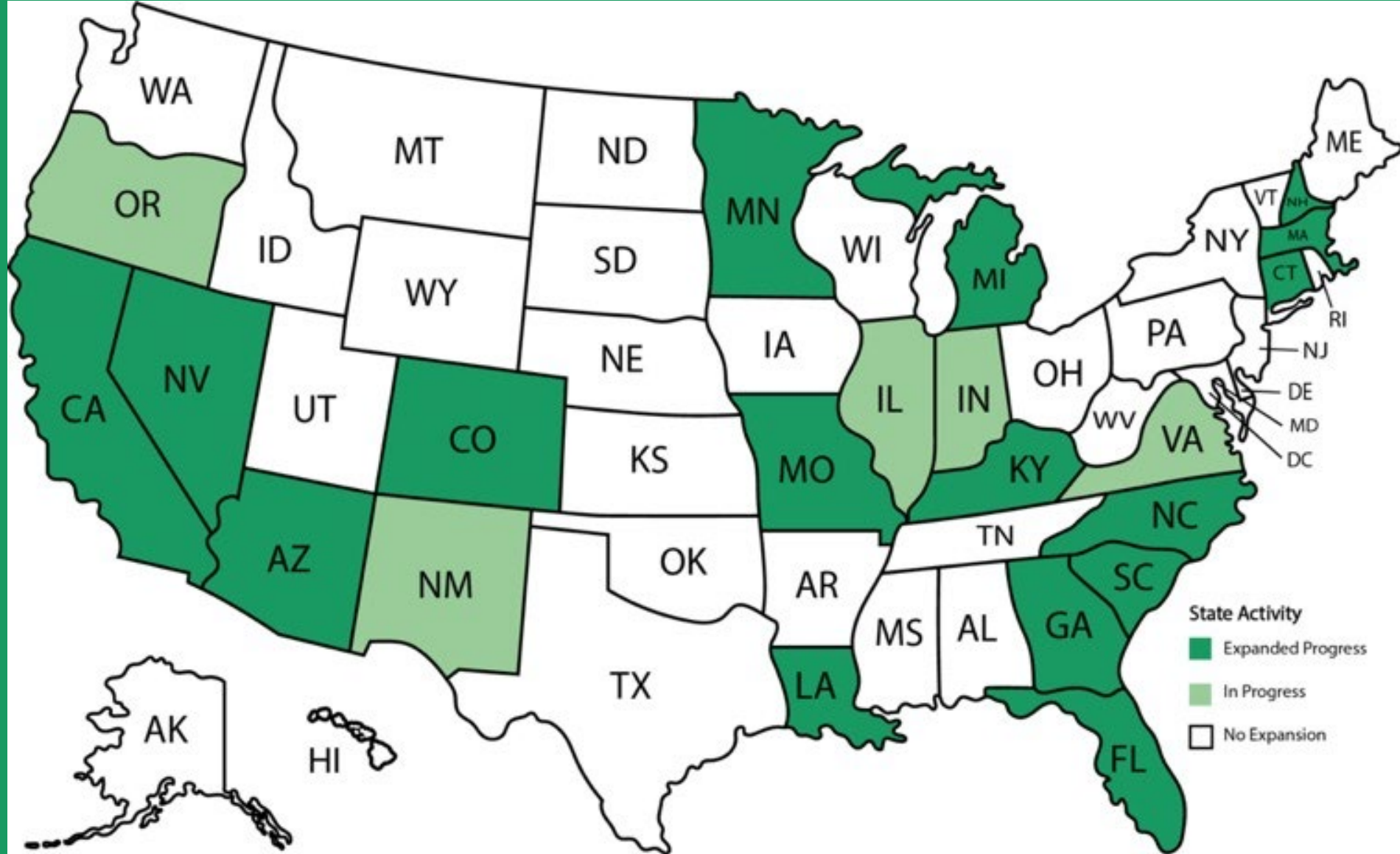
Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

- \$50 million for grants to states to support school Medicaid
- School Medicaid TA center
- Funding to strengthen the school health provider workforce
- Title IV A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
- Updated guidance & best practices for states

Expanding School Medicaid

- Medicaid reimbursement no longer restricted to students with an IEP
- Medicaid will reimburse for services to all Medicaid-enrolled students
- States can choose to expand school-based Medicaid programs to all students
- Some states must submit state plan amendment (SPA) to expand their program to all students; others can take state administrative or legislative actions

Expansion of School-Based Medicaid Programs



Examples of Eligible School Health Services	Examples of Eligible School Health Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physician Services• Nursing Services• Psychology• Counseling• Social Work Services• Vision Services• Audiology Services• Speech Therapy• Occupational Therapy• Physical Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurse practitioner• Registered nurse• Licensed practical nurse• Health technician• Certified school psychologist• Credentialed school counselor• Credentialed school social worker• Licensed marriage and family therapist• Speech language pathologist• Occupational therapist

Examples of Eligible School Mental Health Services	Examples of Eligible School Mental Health Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological assessments• Psychosocial assessments• Individual psychology and counseling• Group psychology and counseling• Medication administration• Peer support services• Case management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licensed psychologist• Certified school psychologist• Licensed counselor• Credentialed school counselor• Licensed social worker• Credentialed school social worker• Licensed marriage and family therapist• Behavior health analysts• Registered nurse

Lessons Learned



Building partnerships
and cross-agency teams



Strong support for
school Medicaid



Federal policy
support



Assessing need and data
collection



Identifying innovative
strategies

Thank you!

Lena O'Rourke
lena@orourkestrategies.com

For more information visit:
healthyschoolscampaign.org

State school Medicaid map:
healthystudentspromisingfutures.org



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN

**Kevin Bauer, PhD,
Michigan Department
of Health and Human
Services**

**Dana Billings, ABA,
MA, Michigan
Department of
Education**

**Scott Hutchins,
Michigan Department
of Education**

MARYLAND COORDINATED COMMUNITY SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP CONSORTIUM

Dear State
Medicaid Director
letter

Dec. 2014

Michigan decides
to study Medicaid
expansion and the
impact it may have
on our state

July 2017

Michigan legislature
passes a school aid bill
that allocates funds to
add mental health
providers that will file
Medicaid claims

Dec. 2018

CMS approves our
SPA

Aug. 2019

Caring4Students
(C4S) Expansion is
operational!

Oct. 2019

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SERVICES PROGRAM – FREE CARE TIMELINE

CARING 4 STUDENTS (C4S) PROGRAM



Medical Services Administration

BULLETIN

MSA

Bulletin Number: MSA 19-26

Distribution: School Based Services Providers

Issued: September 30, 2019

Subject: Caring 4 Students (C4S) Program

Effective: October 1, 2019

Programs Affected: School Based Services, Caring 4 Students

I. General Information

This policy describes the coverage and reimbursement for Intermediate School District (ISD) nursing and behavioral health services for general education students (hereafter referred to as "Caring 4 Students" or "C4S") and for the expansion of the existing School-Based Services (SBS) program. Collectively, these programs will be identified as "school-services programs." Except where specifically identified, the provisions in this bulletin apply to both programs. Coverage is based on medically necessary, Medicaid-covered services that may be provided in the school setting and enables these services to be billed to Medicaid. This ensures federal participation in the funding of these Medicaid-covered services.

It is the intent of this policy that the ISDs, in cooperation with the local education agencies (LEAs), use both existing funding and those from this program to maintain and increase behavioral health and other health services for general education students. These increases can take place in the current or subsequent year and must supplement, and not supplant existing services. It is expected that these additional services for General Education Students be provided without negatively impacting services provided to Special Education Students.

Enrollment as a Michigan Medicaid provider for services delivered in the school setting is limited to the ISDs, Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD), and Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD). Throughout the remainder of this policy, any reference to "ISD" pertains to all these entities unless stated otherwise. The ISDs are required to establish a memorandum of understanding to facilitate coordination and cooperation with other human service agencies operating within the same service area if services are delivered within the school setting.

RANDOM MOMENT TIME STUDY (RMETS)

- RMETS is Michigan's process for cost settlement instead of fee for service
- RMETS measures the work effort of the entire group of approved participants involved in the schools Medicaid and health-related services program by sampling and analyzing work efforts of a randomly selected cross-section of the group
- RMETS is the federally accepted method of documenting the amount of staff time spent on direct service and administrative outreach activities
- RMETS is a program requirement that helps schools receive federal reimbursement for time spent on allowable related activities
- A computer program chooses each moment randomly from the total working hours of all the school days of an entire quarter and assigns the selected moment to an eligible participant

STATE SCHOOL AID ACT FUNDING (PUBLIC ACT 94 OF 1979)

- Building a system of support
 - 2018-19 began with around \$30 million
 - Roughly \$20 per student
- Amended Medicaid State Plan to
 - Expand coverage
 - Caring4Students (C4S)
- Continued investment from the legislators and governor
- Exacerbated need for mental health services:
 - COVID pandemic
 - Political and social unrest
 - Violent tragedy in Oxford, Michigan



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING IN THE STATE SCHOOL AID ACT

Fiscal Year	Recurring	Non-Recurring
FY18	\$0	\$0
FY19	\$31.3m	\$0
FY20	\$31.3m	\$0
FY21	\$45.8m	\$0
FY22	\$53.9m	\$125.4m
FY23	\$78.9m	\$282.5m

PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AND CONTINUED OPPORTUNITIES

- Sec. 3 In = \$77,600,000
 - Funding to ISDs for direct service providers with Medicaid match
 - Child and Adolescent Health Centers with mental health focus (E3)
 - technology
- Sec. 3 Io = \$240,000,000
 - Funding to ISDs and LEAs for direct service providers
 - nurses, social workers, psychologists, counselors
 - 100% salary reimbursement in year 1, 66% in year 2, 33% in year 3
- Sec. 3 Ip = \$50,000,000
 - Funding to ISDs for TRAILS-transforming research into action to improve the lives of students
 - TRAILS brings proven mental health strategies to the school setting – helping staff provide the support students need
 - Training, materials, and implementation support so partner schools can provide their students with effective programming across 3 tiers of service

HIRING IMPACT of 31n FUNDS



	2019-2020 Impact of 31n(6) Funds	2020-2021 Impact of 31n(6) Funds	2021-2022 Impact of 31n(6) Funds
Local school districts served	291	365	436
School buildings served	762	887	1,109
Students attended a school with at least one 31n(6) funded provider	330,320	386,150	535,325
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) licensed behavioral health providers hired directly by an Intermediate School District (ISD) or local district with 31n(6) funds	89.78	154.4	257.74
FTE licensed behavioral health providers hired through contract-based collaborative partnerships with community mental health programs to provide direct services to students	50.2	59.14	87.55
FTE licensed behavioral health providers hired through contract-based collaborative partnerships with private practice providers to provide direct services to students	28.98	33.64	29.44

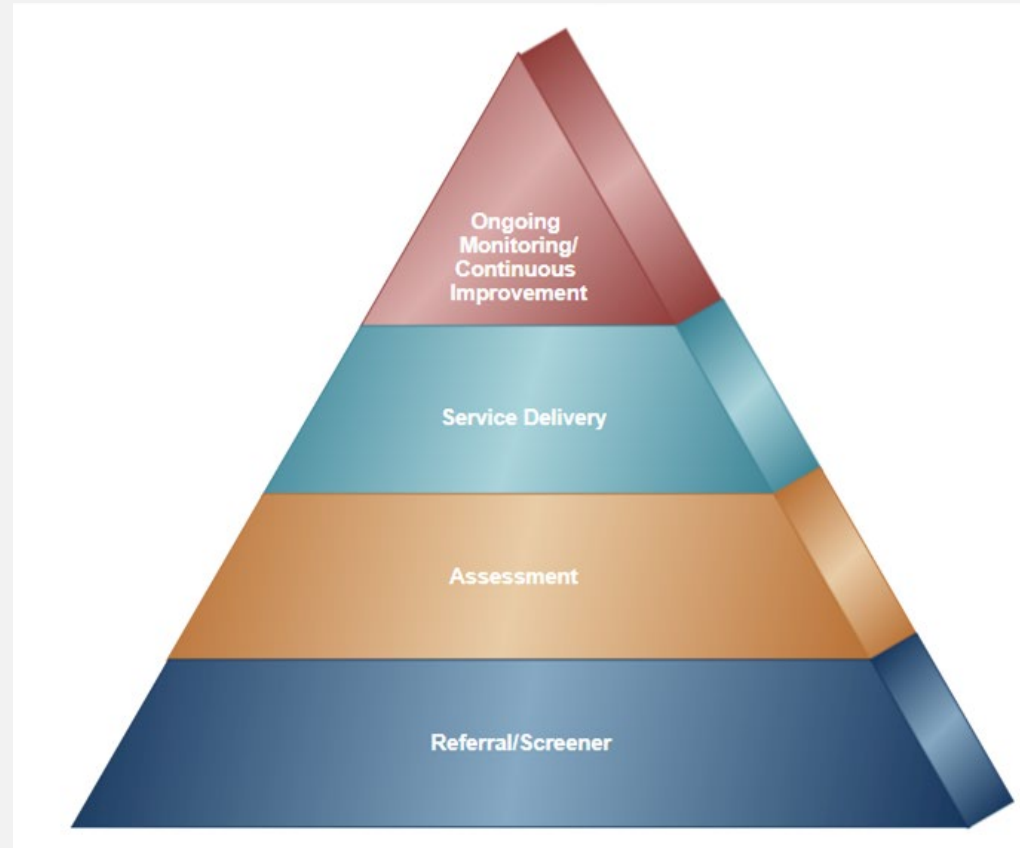
SUMMARY OF
SERVICES PROVIDED
BY 31n FUNDED
PROVIDERS



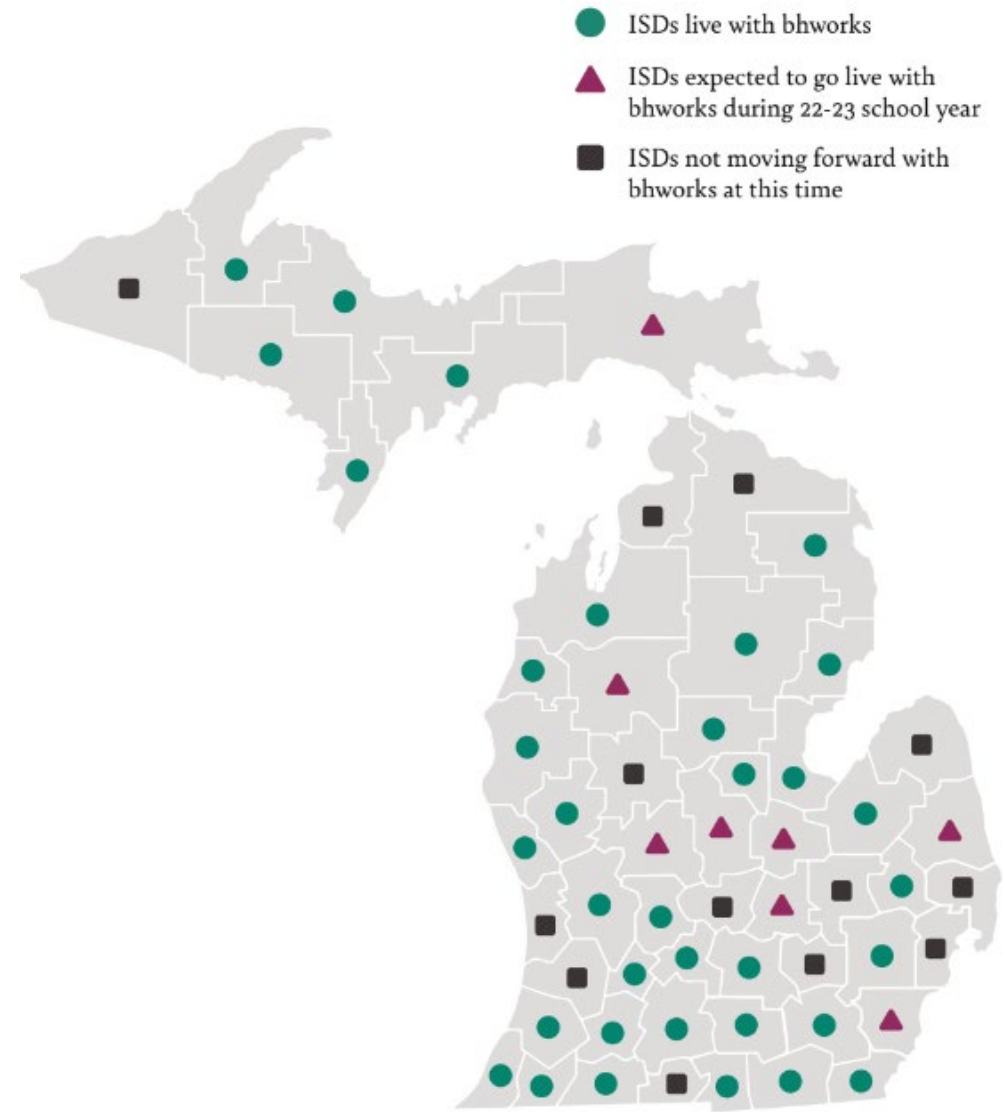
	2019-2020 Services Provided by 31n(6) Funded Providers	2020-2021 Services Provided by 31n(6) Funded Providers	2021-2022 Services Provided by 31n(6) Funded Providers
Students received screenings or assessments	12,030	46,203	62,454
Unduplicated students received direct services from a 31n(6) funded provider	8,885	10,017	22,265
Students that had a Plan of Care developed by a 31n(6) funded provider	2,954	3,421	8,504
Referrals to external community partners	1,273	1,797	3,255

Using bhworks to Connect Students to Services More Efficiently

- Care Coordination Platform
- Streamline standard operating procedures and best practices
- Improve confidential communication with families, school staff and providers
- Access to real-time data



ISDs Using bhworks as of Fall 2022



**TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
FOR SCHOOL-
BASED
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
PROVIDERS AND
COORDINATORS**

Policy Workgroup

Trainings and collaboration opportunities for **Direct Service Providers** every other month

Trainings and collaboration opportunities for **Coordinators** every other month

Regional Meetings for Implementers/Coordinators/Finance fall and spring

Consultants are available to meet with LEAs and ISDs plus their team members as needed

Annual School Medicaid Conference

Newsletters 3x/year

Shared Google drive with vetted resources and support documents

Email list to distribute vetted behavioral health resources and information

QUESTIONS

CONTACTS

KEVIN BAUER

BauerK2@michigan.gov

517-284-1197

School-Based Services Policy
Specialist

Michigan Department of
Health and Human Services

DANA BILLINGS

BillingsD1@michigan.gov

517-335-2250

Special Education Consultant

Michigan Department of
Education, Office of Special
Education

SCOTT HUTCHINS

HutchinsS1@michigan.gov

517-241-7099

Mental Health and Medicaid
Consultant

Michigan Department of
Education, Office of Health and
Nutrition Services

Maryland Medicaid Opportunities

Tanya Schwartz, MSW, MPP

Julia Smith, JD



Mission driven. Forward thinking.

Current State – School Health Services Coverage

- Coverage limited to services listed on a student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Coverage of reasonably broad set of services
 - Audiology, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, transportation, and psychological, counseling, social work, and therapeutic behavior services

Current State – School Health Provider Requirements

- Psychological, counseling, and social work services must be provided or supervised by a licensed mental health professional

School Health Services Coverage Opportunity

- Extend coverage to students without an IEP or IFSP
- Expand coverage to include additional behavioral health services, such as crisis services and substance use disorder services
- Explore opportunities to eliminate or limit supervision requirements for school psychologists, school counselors, and school social workers

Infrastructure Needs

- Staffing, technology, and technical assistance to support Medicaid billing
- Connection to CRISP
- Data collection and analysis
- Improved connection between school health, school-based health centers, and external physical and behavioral health providers

Medicaid Managed Care Coordination

- 99% of child Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in HealthChoice
- Opportunity for coordination, data sharing, and referrals

Opportunity

- Leveraging schools as a unique setting to provide access to health care services
- Maximizing federal Medicaid funding for school health
- Integrating school health into broader delivery system for children and youth
- Supporting schools in supporting children and youth