



Children and Youth Subcommittee Meeting – Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

July 10, 2024



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Agenda

- Youth Mental Health Awareness Training (YMHAT)
- Mental Health Assistance Program (MHAP)
- Florida Department of Education (FDOE) 2022-2023
Medicaid Reimbursement to Public Schools and Revenue
Maximization



Youth Mental Health Awareness Training

Section (s.) 1012.584, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Continuing education and in-service training for YMHA

- Pursuant to [s. 1012.584, F.S.](#), each school district must certify to the department, by July 1, that at least 80 percent of school personnel in elementary, middle and high schools have received the required training.
- This training includes how to identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness and substance use disorders, and provides skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing an emotional disturbance, mental health or substance use problem.
- The State Board of Education adopted Rule [6A-1.094120](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Youth Mental Health Awareness Training and Reporting to support district implementation.

Section 1012.584, F.S., Continuing education and in-service training for YMHAT

- Since 2019-2020, the annual allocation for YMHAT has been \$5.5 million.
- The majority is allocated to the districts with the state set-aside dedicated to staffing and training/licensing materials.
- The districts use their funding for training costs and supplemental pay for participants.



Mental Health Assistance Programs

MHAP Purpose

- [Section 1006.041, F.S.](#) – Each school district must implement a school-based mental health assistance program that includes:
 - Training classroom teachers and other school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues.
 - Connecting children, youth and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services.

MHAP Plan

Plans must be focused on delivering evidence-based mental health care treatment to children and include:

- A multitiered system of supports to deliver evidence-based mental health care assessment, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses and students at high risk of such diagnoses.
- The provision of services must be coordinated with a student's primary mental health care provider and other mental health providers involved in the student's care.

MHAP Plan, continued

- Direct employment of school-based mental health services providers to expand and enhance school-based student services and reduce the student-to-staff ratio to better align with nationally recommended ratio models. The providers shall include, but are not limited to, certified school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and other licensed mental health professionals.

Medicaid School-Based Mental Health Services

Medicaid behavioral health services provided in schools are services such as:

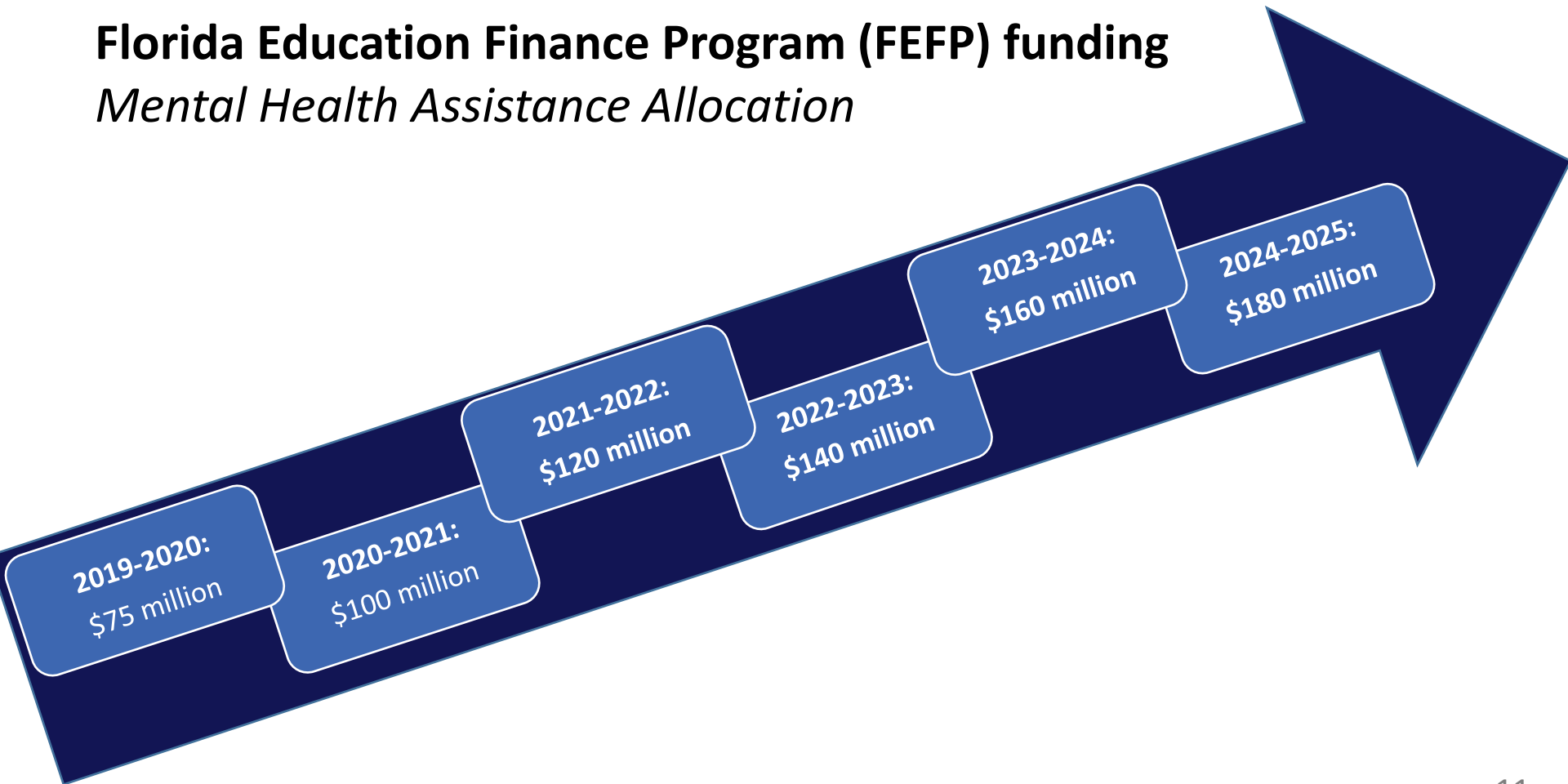
- Testing, interview, assessment and evaluation that appraise cognitive, developmental, emotional, social and adaptive functioning;
- Development of evaluative reports;
 - Testing, assessment and evaluation activities are only billable to Medicaid if they result in Medicaid-reimbursable services that are authorized in an Individual Education Plan (IEP)/plan of care (POC).
- Consultation and coordination, follow-up referrals with other health care staff, other entities or agencies, parents, teachers, and family during the IEP or FSP development and review process or at other times deemed appropriate by the school district staff performing behavioral health services;
- Counseling;
- Behavioral health assessment, treatment or intervention; and
- Crisis support and intervention.

Early Intervention services can be provided to Children with disabilities, ages 3 and under, and their families.



Significant Investments in Mental Health

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding
Mental Health Assistance Allocation



MHAP Funding

Districts have reported the MHAP funding is being utilized to:

- Support the professional learning of teachers and other school-based staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues and connecting children, youth and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services.
- Purchase assessment tools, evidence-based intervention materials, software licenses and technology, and other related supplies.
- Provide services that extend beyond regular school hours.
- Provide a proportionate share of funds to public charter schools and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) centers to support student needs.



FDOE 2022-2023 Medicaid Reimbursement to Public Schools and Revenue Maximization

Medicaid School-Based Reimbursement Programs

- The Medicaid Certified School Match (MCSM) Program
 - Reimbursement for the following services:
 - Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral services, nursing services and specialized transportation
 - Districts Not Participating
 - Jefferson County School District (not enrolled)
 - Districts are not required to participate
 - FDOE provided technical assistance and training
 - Federal Reimbursement
 - FY 2020-2021 - \$20,021,428
 - FY 2021-2022 - \$23,099,412
 - FY 2022-2023 - \$24,616,595*

*subject to change as new claims are processed

Medicaid School-Based Reimbursement Programs

- The School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC) Program
 - Reimbursement for Medicaid administrative outreach
 - Districts are not required to participate
 - Districts Not Participating:
 - Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Holmes, Jefferson, Okeechobee and Taylor
 - FDOE provided technical assistance and training
 - Federal Reimbursement
 - FY 2020-2021 - \$77,628,670
 - FY 2021-2022 - \$56,898,913*
 - FY 2022-2023 - \$60,572,385*

*subject to change as new claims are processed

Medicaid School-Based Reimbursement Programs

For schools not currently enrolled in Florida Medicaid that wish to participate in the program, schools must enroll as a Medicaid provider:

- School districts may enroll as provider type “08.”
 - School district staff are not required to enroll individually as Medicaid providers.
- Charter schools may enroll as specialty type “811” and private schools may enroll as specialty type “812.”
 - Private and charter school staff are required to enroll individually as Medicaid providers.

[The Agency Portal](#) can be utilized to review additional information related to Florida Medicaid, including school-based services and how to enroll.

[The Certified School Match](#) web page also provides information on school-based services.



Florida Medicaid Expenditures for School-Based Services

The Medicaid School-Based Services program is appropriated approximately \$108 million total per year through federal and state funds (GR) to cover both direct and administrative services provided in the school setting. The rest of the state share is supported by Certified Public Expenditures from the School Districts.

Based on the data from 2019-2022 (cumulative totals), the appropriations are as follows:

- MCSM or Direct Services – 21.56% or \$84,910,060
- SDAC or Administrative Services – 78.44% or \$308,948,244

Medicaid School-Based Mental Health Services data (MCSM or Direct Services only):

- Data is incomplete, as districts do not regularly bill for direct mental health services under school match/fee for service. As indicated above, schools bill SDAC at a much higher rate.



Medicaid School-Based Funding

- Pursuant to [s. 1011.70\(3\), F.S.](#), each school district's continued participation in certifying funds to be reimbursed for Medicaid expenditures is contingent upon the district providing to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) an annual accounting of how the federal Medicaid reimbursements are utilized.
- School districts certify quarterly that the school district has expended the state share of public, non-federal funds needed to match the federal share of medical claims billed to the state Medicaid agency for school district services provided to and on behalf of eligible Medicaid students. The federal reimbursement received replaces the public, non-federal funds already expended to deliver the service. It is a district-based decision how those funds are spent.

FDOE-Sponsored Medicaid Systems

- No cost or contract for school districts to participate
 - Medicaid Tracking System (version 2.0 and 3.0)
 - Verify students' Medicaid eligibility
 - Submit reimbursement claims for direct services
 - District participation
 - Twenty school districts
 - Electronic Medicaid Administrative Claiming System (EMACS)
 - Random moment time study to capture administrative outreach activities
 - District participation
 - Twenty-seven districts

Recommendations

- Continue to provide technical assistance and training to all districts and encourage participation in the Medicaid in Schools Program.
- Continue to collaborate with AHCA to support districts' maximization of federal Medicaid reimbursement and to ensure providers are billing accurately.
- Continue to educate and encourage districts to maximize federal reimbursement prior to spending state-allocated funds.

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