

Behavioral Health Services: Providing Hope, Health, and Healing

Medicaid expansion is the lever that Wisconsin pulls to infuse new federal dollars into the rest of our health care system to integrate and expand behavioral health services. Behavioral health is essential to overall wellness. We need to improve access and the way we deliver the continuum of essential mental health and substance use disorder services. To ensure the right supports are available at the right time for all Wisconsin residents, we need to integrate behavioral health into the health care system to provide prevention, intervention, and treatment services to individuals across their life span, and in their communities.

Moving from crisis to recovery

To be better partners with counties and local law enforcement, and provide more appropriate services to our citizens, DHS proposes funding a portion of the Medicaid crisis intervention benefit, which is currently funded entirely by counties. As part of this initiative the budget also provides operational funding to support community-based regional crisis stabilization centers for adults to keep people closer to home where they have easy access to their natural supports. DHS also proposes expanding the statutory definition of a mental health crisis to include substance use, dementia, and other crises, not just mental health.

Investing more in behavioral health

\$44.6
million

Addressing substance use disorders

Large parts of the state do not have adequate access to medication-assisted treatment and recovery supports for individuals with alcohol and other substance use disorders, including opioids. Parts of our state have also seen a surge in methamphetamine use. It increased 462% between 2010 and 2017. DHS proposes investing \$898,800 to implement a Medicaid health home **hub-and-spoke model** in two rural areas and one urban area in the state. Under the proposal, the “hubs” would ensure the integration of a full range of primary health care and substance use disorder services.

Reimbursement

Behavioral health professionals, including psychiatrists, would benefit from an increase in reimbursement rates, which would grow the workforce and improve access to care in all communities.

Electronic health records

In 2021, DHS will provide \$4 million in grants to behavioral health providers to help implement electronic health record systems and further integrate behavioral health in the health care system.

Expanded scope

The budget calls for Medicaid crisis intervention to apply to all individuals in crisis, including those living with dementia or substance use disorders, not just mental health.