

# Children's Mental Health Priorities & Advocacy

*Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force*

May 9, 2023





- A Few Facts
- 2023-25 State Budget
- Children's Mental Health Week

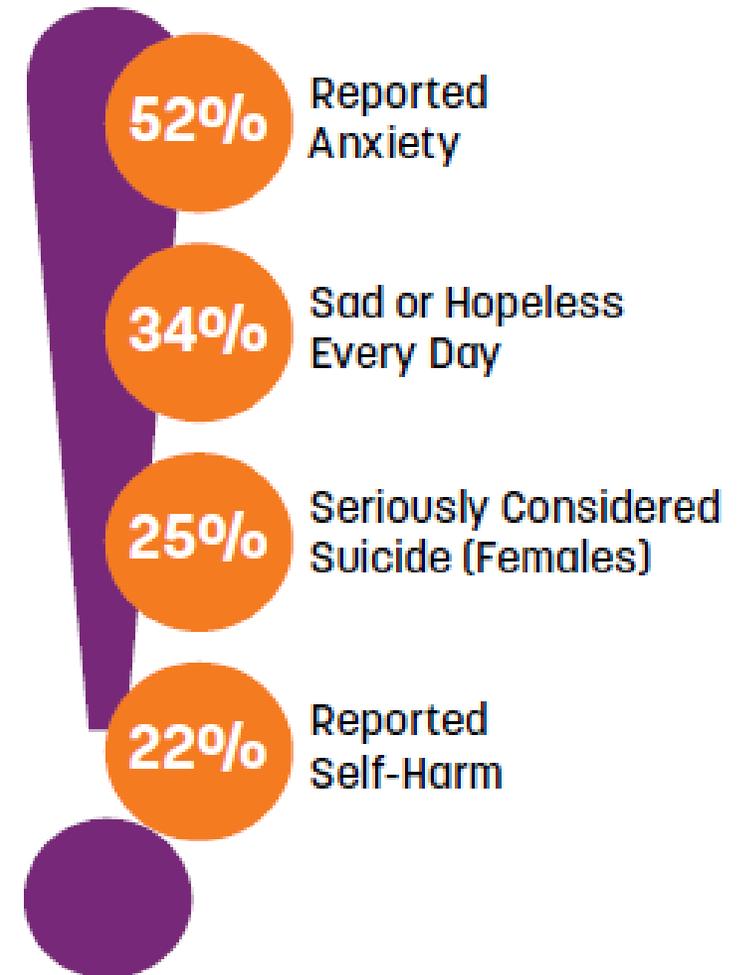




# Well-Being Trends

- 1 in 5 kids **self-harm**
- 1 in 4 girls **seriously consider suicide**
- 1 in 3 feel **sad or hopeless**
- 1 in 2 feel **anxious**

## WISCONSIN YOUTH'S DECLINING MENTAL HEALTH





Social Determinants drive **80%** of  
Mental and Physical Health Outcomes

# Social Determinants of Health



## Family & Parental Stress

- Mental health and financial health are deeply connected.
- Financial worries are often the #1 stressor facing families.
- Those with high financial stress are twice as likely to report poor health.
- ***Parent stress is often absorbed by children, leading to poor mental health for kids.***





# Children's Mental Health in the 2023-25 State Budget

# Governor Evers' biennial budget \$500 million mental health proposal

featuring:

- \$270 million for **Get Kids Ahead** school mental health to make this initiative a permanent state program instead of competitive grants, including:
  - \$36 million for school mental health professionals
  - \$1.1 million for staff training on evidence-based strategies



— 2023: THE YEAR OF —  
**MENTAL HEALTH**



GOVERNOR  
**TONY EVERS**

# Children's Mental Health and the 2023-25 State Budget

## Office of Children's Mental Health

- *Provide 1.0 FTE position, \$63,800 GPR in FY24 and \$78,500 GPR in FY25 to support carrying out the duties of the office.*

## Department of Health Services

- *Crisis Urgent Care & Observation Center Grant Program - \$10.1 million*
- *Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Grant Program - \$1.8 million*
- *Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities Funding - \$1.0 million*
- *Qualified Treatment Trainee Grants Program Expansion - \$4.9 million*
- *Medicaid Certified Peer Specialists Expansion - \$3.7 million*
- *Medicaid Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Room & Board Coverage - \$16.6 million.*
- *Medicaid Autism Treatment Services Rate Increase - \$12.2 million*
- *Additional Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Rate Increases - \$17.0 million*
- *Suicide Prevention Program - \$0.5 million*
- *Qualified Treatment Trainee Coverage Requirement - No state expense*





# Children's Mental Health and the 2023-25 State Budget

## Department of Public Instruction

- *Comprehensive School Mental Health Aid* - \$118 million
- *School Mental Health Staff Reimbursement* - \$18.0 million

## Department of Children and Families

- *Wisconsin After 3 Program* - \$1.8 million
- *Support for Child Care Setting Behavioral Issues* - \$3.3 million



# OCMH Budget Recommendations

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*"The state of mental health in Wisconsin is a quiet, burgeoning crisis that I believe will have catastrophic consequences for generations if we don't treat it with the urgency it requires."*

Governor Tony Evers, January 24, 2023

## Access to Mental Health Services and Treatment

- Comprehensive School Mental Health Aid
- School Mental Health Staff Reimbursement
- Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Rate Increases
- Coverage Requirement

## Continuum of Care

- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Grant Program
- Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities Funding
- Medicaid Certified Peer Specialists Expansion
- Support for Child Care Setting Behavioral Issues
- Wisconsin After 3 Program

## Youth Voice - Cross Agency Collaboration

- Youth Wellness Network



Coalition for Expanding  
**School-Based  
Mental Health**  
in Wisconsin

# Coalition for Expanding School-based Mental Health Policy Priorities 2023-25

[Coalition Advocacy Resources 2023](#)

1

**Grow State  
Investment in  
Dedicated School  
Mental Health  
Funding**

2

**Build Our School  
Mental Health  
Workforce**

3

**Advance Parity  
Coverage for  
Student Mental  
Health**

# STATE BUDGET PROCESS TIMELINE



# OCMH Budget Recommendations

Identifies priority children's mental health items in Governor Evers' 2023-25 State Budget proposal

Available on OCMH website:  
<https://children.wi.gov/Pages/Budget.aspx>



Governor Evers has declared [2023 The Year of Mental Health](#) and has included \$500 million to expand access to mental and behavioral health children and adults in his 2023-25 state budget. Among the proposed provisions are 10 items that OCMH identifies as especially important to create access to, and sustain provision of, a full array of quality mental health treatment services that Wisconsin's children need. Increasing youth voice in identifying priorities for addressing children's well-being is the focus of Item #10 which would also increase the effectiveness of multiple state efforts to gather youth input on youth wellness.

## RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



Advocating for these budget initiatives with legislators is the most immediate and effective action we can take to improve children's mental health in our state.



**SUBMIT A COMMENT** on the budget to the Joint Finance Committee, the designated budget committee for the state legislature.



**ATTEND A HEARING** hosted by the Joint Finance Committee across the state.



**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS** Share with your Assembly Representative and State Senator your support for children's mental health in the state budget.  
[Who Are My Legislators?](#)

## 1 ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND TREATMENT

- ▶ **Comprehensive School Mental Health Aid**  
Nearly \$118 million General Purpose Revenue (GPR) annually for comprehensive school mental health aid, such as navigators, parent training, and the implementation of best practices and to allow sustainable funding for these mental health services.
- ▶ **School Mental Health Staff Reimbursement**  
\$18 million GPR annually to reimburse schools for certain school staff who assist students with mental health issues, such as counselors, school nurses, and social workers.
- ▶ **Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Rate Increases**  
\$17 million All Funds (AF)\* over the biennium for a Medicaid rate increase for various outpatient mental health and substance use services and child/adolescent day treatment.
- ▶ **Coverage Requirement**  
Increase access to services by mandating that all health insurance plans cover services provided by an individual who has earned, or is working toward, a graduate degree in a mental health field, but has not yet completed the supervised practice hours this to meet licensure requirements.

continued >



# Budget – Advocacy

## Advocate for Children's Mental Health in the 2023-2025 State Budget

Advocating for the Wisconsin 2023 - 2025 budget initiatives with legislators is the most immediate and effective action we can take to improve children's mental health in our state. Governor Evers has declared 2023 The Year of Mental Health and has included in his budget \$500 million to expand access to mental and behavioral health for children and adults. Contact your Assembly Representative and State Senator to voice your support for children's mental health in the state budget.



[CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS](#)

Enter your address at the Wisconsin State Legislature Website

[!\[\]\(2becda4813f27b5edb43f5299d7596ac\_img.jpg\) Download the Email to Legislators Word Document](#)

*Copy and paste our pre-written text into your email, or write your own version!*



# Children's Mental Health Week 2023

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May 7 – May 13

Awareness → Acceptance → Action

## Awareness



Email Signature



Zoom Virtual Background



Press Release

## Acceptance



Proclamation



Social Media

## Action



Presentations



Email Joint Finance Committee



Activities List



# Individual Action – Advocate

- Write the Joint Finance Committee asking for ongoing sustainable funding for mental health in Wisconsin
- Children’s Mental Health Budget Priority List
  - Access
  - Continuum of Care
  - Youth Voice



*Copy and paste our pre-written text into your email, or write your own version!*

# Action in Communities

- Find the data on the health of youth in your community
- Host a Youth Mental Health First Aid training
- Light it Up Green
- Fundraise for local wellness organization
- Promote 988

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
**LIFELINE**

24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT

**HELP IS HOPE**

TRAINED COUNSELORS,  
CONFIDENTIAL & FREE

U.S. ARMY  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES

The advertisement features a collage of six diverse individuals: a young woman with curly hair looking at her phone, a man with a beard in a plaid shirt, a woman with long dark hair writing in a notebook, a man in a military-style jacket, a woman in a white cardigan holding a dreamcatcher, and a man with a beard in a dark jacket. The background is a solid blue color.

# Action in Business & Organizations

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- Speak with clients about mental wellness
- Connect with nearby youth-serving organizations
- Coordinate paid volunteer events
- Hire peer specialists
- Share Press Release or Letter to the Editor





# 7 Day Action Plan

	Sun., May 7	Mon., Mon. 8	Tues., Mon. 9	Wed., May 10	Thurs., May 11	Fri., May 12	Sat., May 13
<b>Individual</b>	Get ready! Plan your week of activities	Share a social media post – plan posts for the rest of the week	Speak about your personal connection to mental health	Learn about and support the mental health organizations in your community	<a href="#">Write your legislators</a> asking for mental health funding	Tend to your wellness	Read about or listen to a podcast on well-being and relationships
<b>Interpersonal</b>	Check in with the <a href="#">Feelings Thermometer</a>	Start the conversation	Practice active listening	Affirm and validate	Deepen the connection	Complete a <a href="#">Mental Health Crisis Card</a>	Connect with a friend

# Children's Mental Health Week 2023



- May is Mental Health Month
- May 7-13 – Children's Mental Health Week
- Thursday, May 11 – Children's Mental Health Day
- Thursday, May 18 – Mental Health Action Day

<https://children.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>



# Together we can make a difference

**Children's  
Mental Health  
Week  
May 7 – May 13**



**Access  
materials and  
ideas at  
[https://children  
.wi.gov/Pages/  
CMHWeek2023  
.aspx](https://children.wi.gov/Pages/CMHWeek2023.aspx)**



# Ways to Connect With Us



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@YouthMentalHealthWI



**Twitter:**  
@WIKidsMH



**LinkedIn:**  
OCMHWI



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Wisconsin OCMH

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