Screening Matters

Social-emotional wellness in young children profoundly impacts long-term success.

Early screening is the BEST investment we can make for young children.

$68 MILLION
The annual cost for NM of treating the five most expensive child behavioral health disorders: PTSD, MOOD DISORDERS, ADHD, ADJUSTMENT DISORDER, & OPPOSITIONAL DEFIANT DISORDER.

$8 BILLION
The amount of money NM loses in lifetime earnings for children currently affected by substance abuse & psychological disorders.

18%
Number of NM children who have experienced at least three ACEs. Highest rate in the nation. ¹

46%
Percentage of spending on behavioral health of New Mexico’s children for acute out-of-home treatment without evidence of its effectiveness. ²

POLICY GOAL
Legislate a list of approved screening tools to give providers clarity and confidence.

Tools like the Survey of Well-Being of Young Children (SWYC) and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ: SE) help providers detect behavioral health issues for children and families.

POLICY GOAL
Improve referral structures by ensuring MCOs meet their mandate of service delivery, care coordination oversight, and a two-generation health model.

Pass legislation in 2019 to improve MCO referrals and link children to medically necessary services.

1. Assign a single care coordinator to all members of a family.
2. Lessen burden on doctors & community providers to ensure their patients are connected to necessary services.
3. Focus on rural provider gaps.

For a more in-depth analysis and expanded recommendations, please read our full report, HERE: https://goo.gl/Tq84ti  * EMAIL: mbernstein@pegasuslaw.org  * CALL: (505) 244-1101


Wellness Check-Up: Boosting Social-Emotional Screening for Young Children in New Mexico