



# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## Past, Present and Future for Minnesota Children, Youth and Families

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# DHS at a glance



The Minnesota Department of Human Services, working with many others, helps people meet their basic needs so they can live in dignity and achieve their highest potential.

# 2019 Legislative Session



6/15/2019

AspireMN Membership Meeting | [mn.gov/dhs](https://mn.gov/dhs)

# Child welfare system improvements

## Addressing disparities in the child protection system

American Indian and African American/black children are substantially more likely than white children to be reported to child protection and be the subjects of maltreatment assessments or investigations.

Expanding the American  
Indian Child Welfare  
Initiative

Creating the Child  
Welfare Training  
Academy

Implementing the Family  
First Prevention Services  
Act

# Health care coverage for children in foster care

## Eliminating barriers to health care coverage for children and youth in foster care

Right now, fewer than half the children in foster care are enrolled automatically in Medical Assistance – only those who receive Title IV-E federal funding.

Establishing automatic Medicaid eligibility for children in foster care

Removing administrative burden for county workers

Helping provide equitable access to health care

## Promoting financial stability for families with children and pregnant women living in poverty

The monthly Minnesota Family Investment Program cash grant of \$532 for a family of three hasn't changed since 1986. Children make up 72 percent of the MFIP caseload.

Increasing the cash grant  
by  
\$100/month/household

Raising the basic cash  
assistance for the first  
time since 1986

Building on the housing  
grant progress made in  
2013

# School-linked mental health grants

## Expanding access to school-linked mental health services

Untreated mental health issues are a significant barrier to learning and school success. School-linked services often identify children with serious mental health needs for the first time.

Developing capacity to deliver services via telemedicine

Providing training for working with kids who have experienced trauma

Studying the program to develop recommendations for improvement

# Children's residential mental health facilities

## Creating long-term solutions for children's mental health treatment

An estimated 109,000 Minnesota children and youth up to age 21 need treatment for serious mental health conditions. Demand has been outpacing capacity for children's residential mental health services.

Using state funding to offset lost federal funding

Raising the current cap on PRTF beds from 150 to 300

Eliminating the limit of six PRTF sites across the state



## Addressing the opioid crisis through prevention and treatment

Almost 40,000 children were involved in screened-in child protection reports in 2017, up from 26,000 in 2014. Drug abuse by parents is the most common primary reason for children being placed in out-of-home care.

Establishing an Opioid Stewardship Fee and advisory council

Investing in child protection activities in affected communities

Increasing access to traditional healing for American Indians

# Looking forward



# Mental health rates

Work group is in the process of being formulated

DHS Behavioral Health Division is coordinating with DHS Health Care Administration

Plan will be in place by the end of July

# Family First Prevention Services Act

Working with federal and state partners, as well as stakeholders, to determine impact

Requested delaying four provisions of the law for two years

Infrastructure to implement requirements approved during Session



Thank You!

Questions?