

RCPA Mental Health Strategic Targets for 2023

RCPA continues its advocacy and support of our members via legislative, stakeholder, funder, and systems engagement on many of the key issues facing our members serving many of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens.

Global Systems Objectives

- Strategic pathway to workforce development and changes across all human services;
- Reducing barriers to professional licensing to address gaps in treatment service access;
- Decreasing administrative process burden to providers;
- Addressing barriers and challenges in the PROMISe system that result in delays in providing services;
- Addressing complex care access challenges by reimagining and funding the residential and community-based continuum for adults and children; and
- Developing telehealth practices, policies, and legislation that ensure equity and access to care.

Regulatory Reform Foundational Considerations

- RCPA will focus on the following mental health regulations for reform and promulgation in 2023:
 - IBHS • PRTF • Crisis Services • ACT • Family-Based • 3800 OCYF • CRR • LTSR
- Realigning the regulation development that engages providers, practitioners, and consumers in the process.
- Reducing process barriers of regulators and payers which hinder access to quality services as it increases administrative burden, manifesting in and through:
 - Auditing and licensing processes;
 - Duplicative procedures required by multiple offices and bureaus within those offices; and
 - Ever-changing policies and procedures.
- Current and undrafted regulations that include staffing qualifications and ratios, and supervision, training, and documentation requirements exacerbate the current workforce crisis and, ultimately, create barriers to accessing services.
- Inconsistent implementation of regulatory standards across each HealthChoices behavioral health managed care organization conflates and complicates efforts to comply with regulation and contractual requirements.

Funding

- Legislate and allocate the \$100m Behavioral Health Commission Funding;
- Support for the \$20m in County-Based Mental Health Funding in the 2023/24 budget;
- Advocate for funding that reflects true "cost-plus" to create sustainable service provision platforms;
- Develop transparent VBP models that reflect value and shared risk among partners;
- Continue advocacy for the appropriate release of "rainy day funds" to bolster services and workforce;
- Incorporate an Early Intervention rate methodology process for sustainable program delivery.

If you have any questions, please contact RCPA Mental Health Services Director [Jim Sharp](#).