

New York State Child Welfare Summit

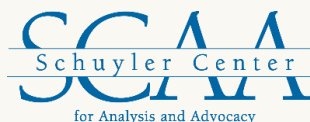
November 1, 2023



**Citizens' Committee
for Children** of NEW YORK



Rise



New York's Child Welfare Data

2

Received **145,684**
reports

Provided **75,088**
children and **37,516**
families with
preventive services

Had **14,358** children
in foster care



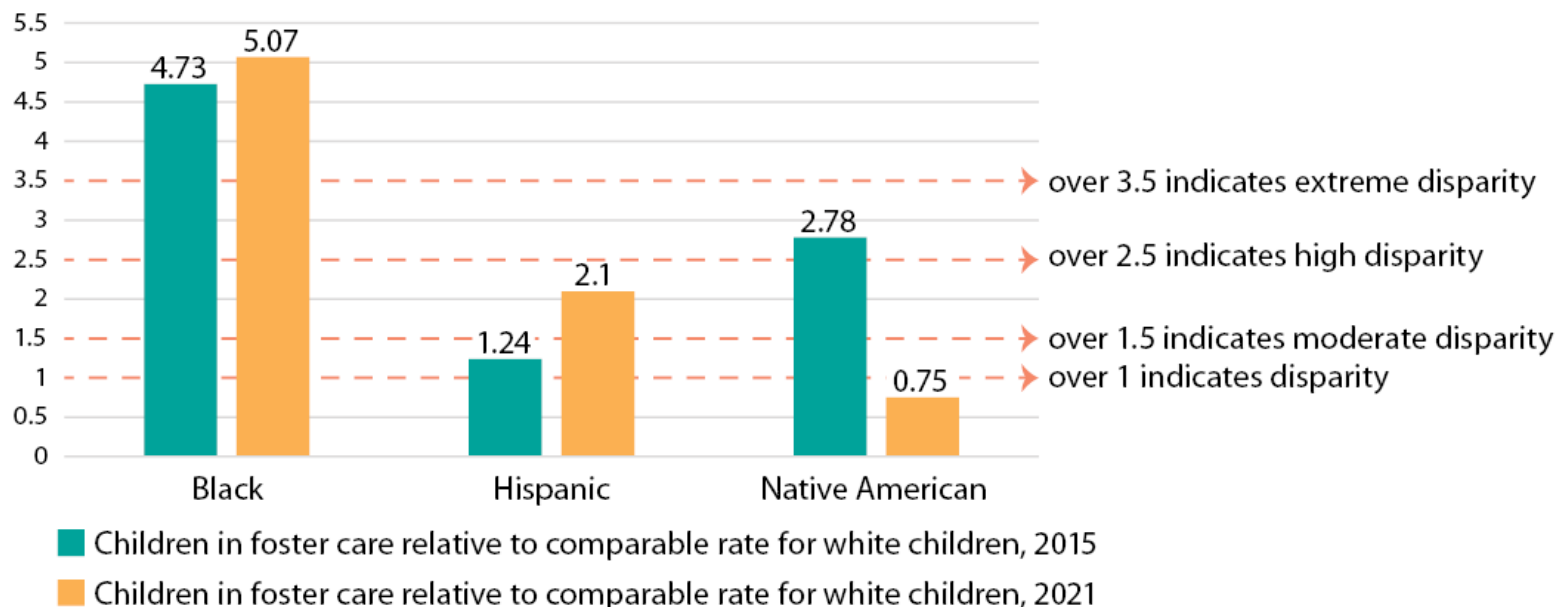
Citizens' Committee
for Children of NEW YORK



Child Welfare Disparity Data

3

Black children in NYS are over five times more likely to be in child welfare placement as white children; Hispanic children are twice as likely



New York Disparity Index: Rate of Black, Hispanic, Native American children in child welfare placement relative to comparable rate for white children, 2015, 2021

Recommendations for 2024

4

Address root causes

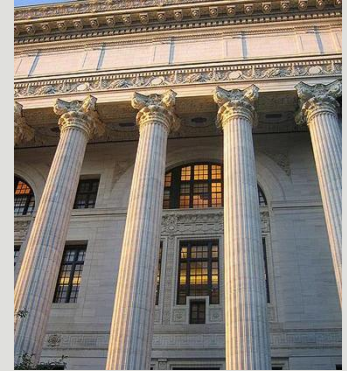
- Reduce child poverty by strengthening the Empire State Child Credit
- Increase the availability of community-based services, especially mental health.



**FAMILIES TOGETHER IN
NEW YORK STATE**

Child Welfare Summit

**BRAD HANSEN, DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC POLICY**



Who is Families Together in New York State?

- FTNYS is a **statewide, family-run, youth-guided** organization and the NY chapter of the **National Federation of Families**.
- That means **the majority** of our board, staff and network are families and young people with **lived experience** in child-serving systems such as mental health, addiction, disabilities, child welfare, juvenile justice and education.
- Our mission is to represent, support and advocate for **youth and families voice in policy and systems change** to ensure an equitable and inclusive journey that fosters **belonging, wellness, and empowerment** for all.

What We do

- Our core value is “Nothing About Us Without Us.”
- For over 20 years, we have been the training and credentialing body of New York for **Family Peer Advocates (FPA)** and **Youth Peer Advocates (YPA)**-peers helping peers in a variety of systems and settings.
- Our **Statewide Family Network** and **Youth Power! Network** consists of advocates, chapters, affiliated family support programs and FTNYS regional staff in every part of New York State.
- Our Policy Department mobilizes our network to bring **lived expertise** to campaigns and systems change efforts that impact families and young people **at every level of government.**



IF NEW YORK INVESTS EARLY IN CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH , WE CAN CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF THEIR LIVES.

1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN NEW YORK HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH NEED



**137,000 CHILDREN
HAD A SEVERE MAJOR
DEPRESSIVE EPISODE
LAST YEAR**

**AMONG
NEW YORKERS
AGES 18 - 34:**

45%

**REPORTED
SYMPTOMS OF
POOR MENTAL
HEALTH.**



**UNMET MENTAL
HEALTH NEEDS
CAN HAVE
LIFE-LONG
CONSEQUENCES
FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES**

Nationally, students with depression are more than **TWICE** as likely to drop out of high school.

In New York, death by suicide is the **2nd** leading cause of death for 15 -19 year olds and **4th** leading cause of death for 5 -14 year olds.

In 2021, the CDC found record-high levels of sadness among teenage girls, with one in three high school girls seriously considering suicide.

More than one in five lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth reported attempting suicide in 2021.

**TOO MANY CHILDREN IN NEW YORK ARE FACING
UNMET NEEDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**HALF OF NEW YORK
YOUTH WITH MAJOR
DEPRESSIVE EPISODES
IN THE PAST YEAR**

**DID NOT
RECEIVE ANY
TREATMENT**

26% of children statewide receive no follow-up in the week after a mental health-related hospitalization, and 10% are readmitted to the hospital within 30 days.

35% of young people discharged from a psychiatric stay at a general hospital in New York ended up back in an emergency room within 90 days.

New Yorkers are over 10 times more likely to be forced out-of-network for mental health care.

**THERE ARE ONLY
28 CHILD
PSYCHIATRISTS
PER
100,000 CHILDREN
IN NEW YORK.**



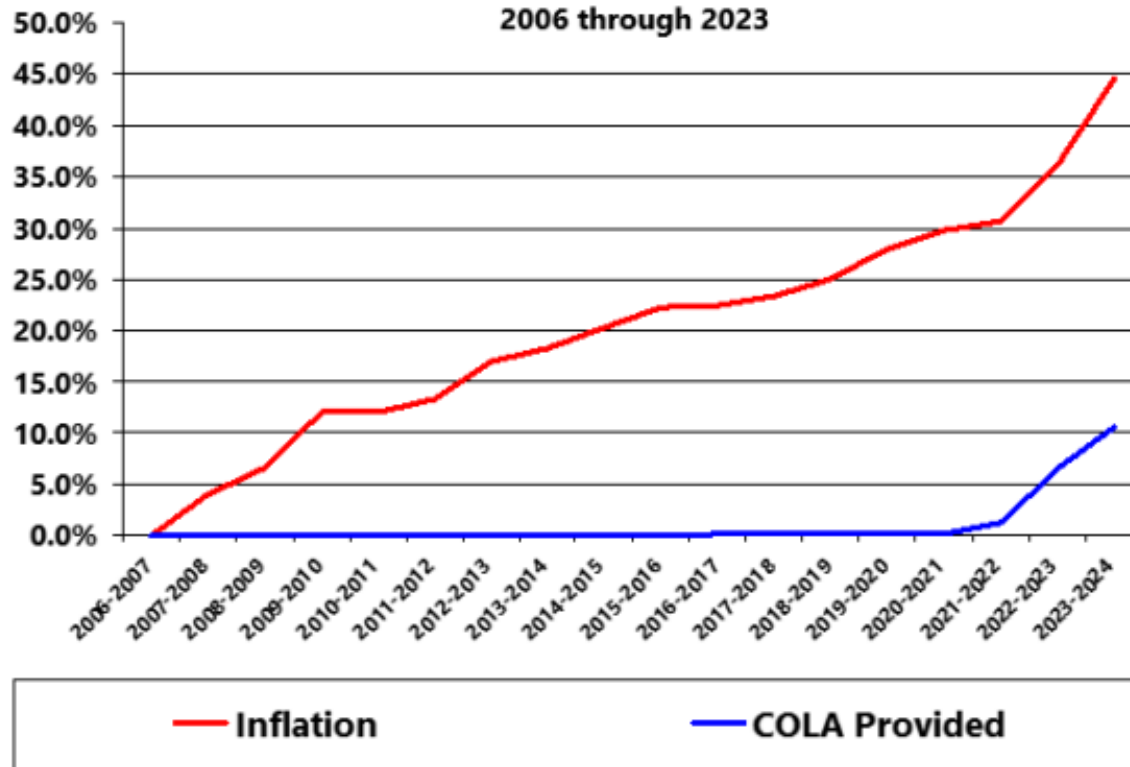
**IN MANY
COUNTIES,
THERE ARE
NONE.**

WE MUST INTERVENE EARLIER!

Half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders begin by **age 14**, and **75%** by **age 24**.

The average delay between onset of mental illness symptoms and treatment is 11 years.

**EROSION IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUNDING
DUE TO INFLATION
2006 through 2023**



By the Numbers

44.6%

Annual **CPI increases** over
a 17-year period from
2007-2008 through the
current fiscal year 2023-24

34%

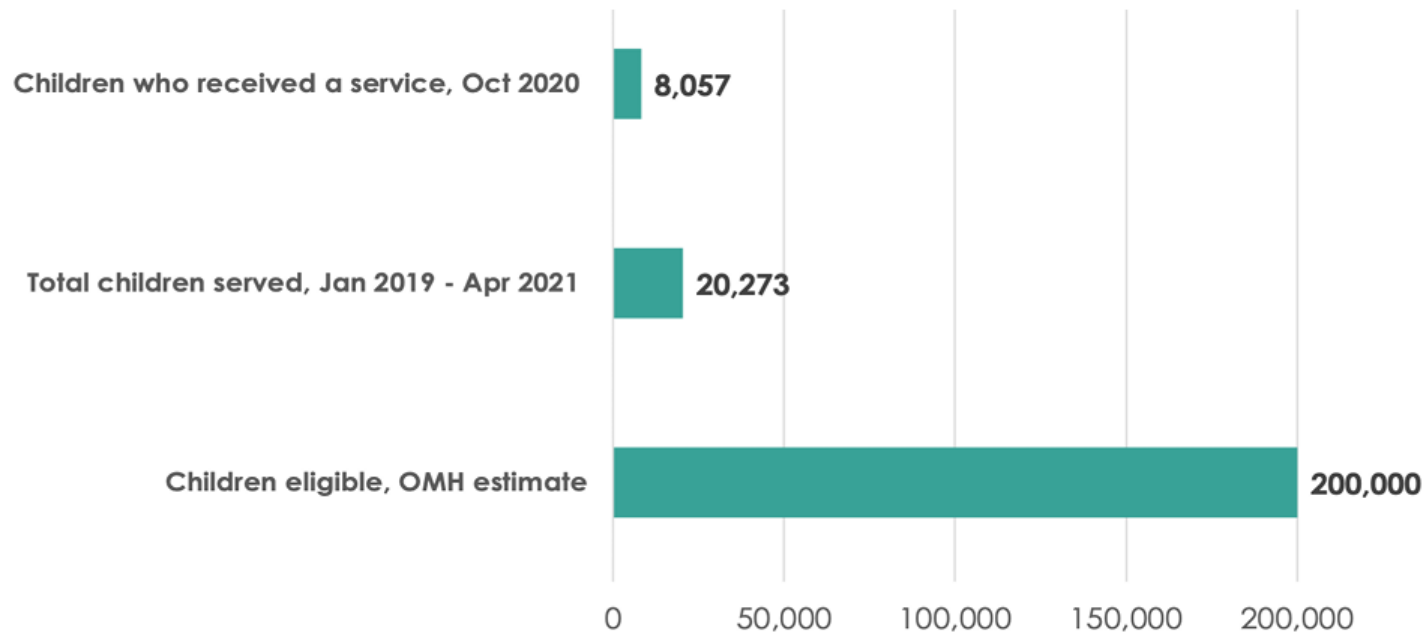
Total **COLA deficit** for the
for OMH & OASAS
Providers from 2007-2008
through 2023-2024 when
compared to the CPI

Between

\$438M - \$497M

The approximate total amount of **COLA funding deficit** for
OMH and OASAS providers.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES



Sources: Multiple data presentations distributed by NYS DOH, OMH, OASAS, OPWDD.

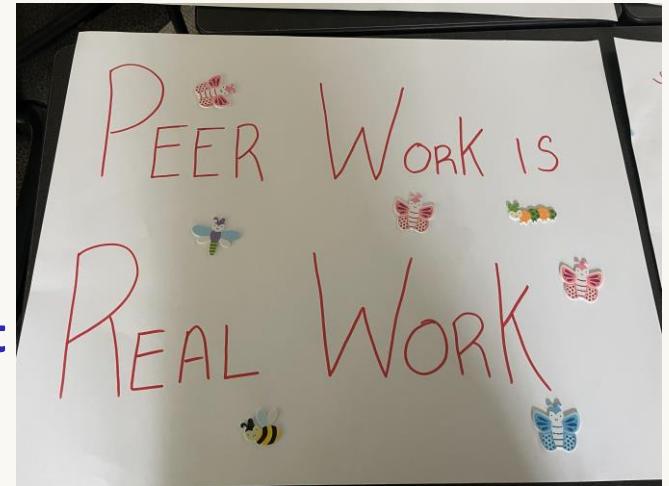
Workforce, Not Waitlists

- Enhance children's behavioral health rates in CFTSS, HCBS, Article 31 and Article 32 clinics to help address the children's behavioral health crisis.
- Invest in community behavioral health services by including a 3.2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and add \$500M to increase rates for unrestricted flexible spending.
- Require commercial insurers to pay Medicaid APG rates for in-network and out-of-network behavioral health services.
- Invest in tuition assistance and expand loan forgiveness to all levels of staff committed the mental health field
- Create a Task Force to analyze the impact of the state's Children's Medicaid Behavioral Health transition –



For every Family and Youth, a Family and Youth Peer Advocate.

- Add at least \$5.5M State Aid (1650) for expansion of Family and Youth Peer Support
- Raise reimbursement rates for peer services across all programs, including but not limited to HCBS and CFTSS, to be consistent with the MHOTRS rate.



Healing Centered Schools

- Expand funding for school-based mental health services, youth-designed programming, mental health and trauma-informed training for faculty and students, and social-emotional learning curriculums.
- Include EDSDT (including CFTSS) in a State Plan Amendment to take advantage of the Federal “Free Care Rule” that allows Medicaid to pay for services outside of an IEP.
- Pass the Solutions Not Suspensions Act to keep pre-k to 3rd grade students in school, prohibit suspensions for certain violations, and limit suspensions to 20 days.



Recommendations for 2024

17

Address systemic bias

- Pass Confidential Reporting (A.2479/S.902)
- Pass Family Miranda Rights (A.1980/S.901)
- Invest in high-quality legal representation



Recommendations for 2024

18



Increase support for young people

- Fund the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYSCI) at \$10 million
- Add a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) to the child welfare housing subsidy and expand eligibility for young people up to age 24

Long-Term Recommendations

19

- Establish a Child and Family Wellbeing Fund
- Change New York's definition of neglect
- Provide guaranteed income to young people exiting and families involved in the system

