

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2023-25 BIENNIAL BUDGET

The Continuum of Care for Children with Complex Needs

Wisconsin faces challenges in meeting the needs of children with complex mental health conditions. The number of out of state placements for this population is on the rise. Keeping children in need of complex mental health care close to home leads to better outcomes. That's why it is time to create and support a new option for care in Wisconsin—psychiatric residential treatment facilities or PRTFs.

A NEW LEVEL OF CARE

PRTFs are standalone facilities that offer more intensive mental health treatment services than what is currently available in the state, such as a residential treatment or day treatment. The inpatient services provided are less medically intensive than a psychiatric hospital or a psychiatric unit of a general hospital. The goal is to improve the child's condition to the point where inpatient care is no longer needed.

Medical and behavioral staff work with the child and their family to establish a psychiatric care plan focused on daily active treatment that includes a combination of family, group, and individual therapy and a highly structured living environment. Supervised physical safety measures may be used if clinically appropriate.

Discharge planning begins at the time of admission to aid in a successful transition to home, school, and community as soon as possible.

This level of care typically is used when less restrictive options have failed to support the child.

Admission to a PRTF is based on a medical necessity for the care provided. Medical necessity is reviewed regularly for admitted clients to ensure that they are in the proper care setting for their needs.

PATH TO IMPLEMENTATION

- Statutory changes to allow for PRTFs in Wisconsin.
- An amendment to the Medicaid State Plan to include PRTF services approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- A state licensure or certification category established along with licensure and regulatory requirements that comply with Medicare/Medicaid rules regarding PRTFs.

INVESTING IN OUR CONTINUUM OF CARE

Governor Evers' proposal:

- Expands Medicaid benefits to include a PRTF benefit. The proposal includes statutory changes to amend the Medicaid State Plan to include PRTF services and certify a provider to operate as a PRTF.
- Establishes a PRTF. The proposal includes \$1.79 million for the development and operation of a 25-bed PRTF open to people under the age of 21.

For more information on all of Governor Evers' proposed investments in Wisconsin's health, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget