Mental Health Consultation Services Expansion Plan

Board of Early Education and Care
September 9, 2008
"A balanced approach to emotional, social, cognitive, and language development will best prepare children for success in school and later in the workplace.

Basic principles of neuroscience and human capital formation indicate that later remediation will produce less favorable outcomes than preventive intervention.

Highly specialized interventions are needed as early as possible for children experiencing tolerable or toxic stress.”
Mental Health Needs in Early Education and Care

- Rising concern about challenging behavior in pre-k programs
  - Expulsion
  - Teacher stress

- Recent *Supportive Child Care Survey* findings:
  - Mental Health (MH) needs considered one of the largest challenges child care programs face today
  - MH services utilized by 40% of children and families in Supportive Child Care
  - MH services consume only 9% of funds overall
  - If more funds were made available, 26% would be used for mental health
Mental Health Needs in Early Education and Care

A Survey of Child Care Directors and Mental Health Specialists in MA

- Programs receiving MH Consultation Services reported improvements in behavior and lower expulsion rates
- Yet 43% indicate that services are not sufficient to meet the need
- Gaps that need to be addressed:
  - Professional Development
  - Services for infants and toddlers
  - Cultural responsiveness
  - Parent involvement
  - Referral options for children with intensive needs
Framework of Support for Mental Health/Social-Emotional Development

**Intervention**
Individual services to address mental health problems

**Prevention**
Individual and program-level service to prevent social-emotional and behavioral problems

**Promotion**
Program activities to support positive relationships & healthy social-emotional development
EEC Mental Health Initiatives: Background

- Comprehensive Mental Health in Child Care (CMHCC)
  - Initiated in 2001
  - FY08: $620,000
  - Clinician on-site at 14 Supportive Child Care programs across MA
  - EEC funds 2/3 of clinician salary to support non-billable services
  - Embedded clinicians provide clinical services, home visits, classroom observation, service coordination, training

- Behavioral Issues: Training and Consultation Services
  - One time grant
  - FY07: $980,000
  - Training, mentoring and consultation services to early education and care staff regarding techniques for caring for children who present behavioral challenges
EEC Mental Health Initiatives: Background

- Mental Health Consultation Services
  - FY07 budget provided funds specifically for mental health consultation services grants: $804,000
  - FY08: $2,400,000*
  - 10 Grantees serving 75 communities
  - MH consultants provide support to program staff and families, on-site observation and assessment, individualized behavior plans, referrals, case management, crisis support

  *FY08 grants total $2,030,000, while additional funds used to partially fund CMHCC.

- FY09 $2,900,000
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services

Proposed FY2009 Expansion

- FY2009 State budget provides $500,000 to expand access to each childhood mental health consultation

- To build on existing funding/approaches and feed back from the field, EEC proposes to issue a competitive RFR
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services

Proposed FY2009 Expansion

RFR would require:

- Integration of two types of services: On-site, “embedded” clinician model and on-call consultation services; and capacity for 3rd party billing.

RFR would emphasize/prioritize need to:

- Serve children birth through 14 with focus on infant/toddler capacity
- Address cultural and linguistic needs of children, families, and providers
- Work in partnership with families
- Coordinate with Early Intervention and Public School Special Education
- Provide referral options for children with intensive mental health needs
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services

*Proposed FY2009 Expansion*

Funding/allocation options for Board consideration:

- Target the needs of children enrolled through Supportive Child Care Expansion
- Target funding to programs in priority school districts
- Target a single community or region to provide full scale access to mental health consultation services