**Workgroup: Children & Youth**

**Definition**: Behavioral health services including Youth Empowerment Services (YES), Juvenile Justice, treatment court programs, school-based services, transition age efforts, family and support services surrounding children, community supports and prevention/intervention efforts regarding child abuse and neglect in collaboration with other state systems and stakeholders working together to improve the System of Care.

**Goals**:

* Understand strengths and weaknesses regarding access and referrals to treatment.
* Identify gaps and public/private successes to inform enhancement recommendations.
* Collaborate with Prevention/Early Intervention, commitment and programs/services workgroups to ensure continuity of recommendations.

**Persona Placemat**

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1. Who is the user of Idaho’s Behavioral Health System? What are their challenges?
	1. The users of Idaho Behavioral Health System are children, youth and their families. Their challenges may include but are not limited to lack of consistency in processes across 44 counties in Idaho, understanding entry points into the behavioral health system, understanding court process, access problems, transportation barriers, access to reliable telehealth options, lack of in state mental health resources that adequately meet the needs of complex youth, supports for parents, lengthy waitlists for services, systems not communicating with one another, lack of thorough assessments, lack of proper crisis & safety planning and crisis response/intervention, proper step down procedure when youth is being discharged from higher level of care which puts youth at risk to continue through the system, suicidality increase throughout Idaho, lack of early intervention, lack of connection opportunities, threat of CFS involvement due to lack of adequate resources, parental consent for treatment (State Bill 329 language) and lack of consistent follow up.
2. Where do they enter the system?
	1. Children and youth enter the system through various areas to include but not limited to:
		1. Legal- juvenile justice
		2. Primary health care providers
		3. School
		4. Hospitals
		5. Developmental Disabilities
		6. Child & Family Services (CFS)
		7. Advocacy groups such as FYIdaho, Idaho Parents Unlimited, etc.
		8. Division of Behavioral Health
		9. Liberty Healthcare
3. How are they interacting with the system?
	1. Children and youth may be involved in the juvenile justice system, developmental disability system, children protection system, and mental health system. They are occasionally treated by health care providers and schools occasionally work on their behaviors in the school setting.
4. What must we help them with?
	1. Access of services
	2. Transportation
	3. Understanding the system