

2002 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Data

In 2002, Pennsylvania did not meet “substantial conformity” in reference Well-Being Outcome # 3 (Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs).

Concerns:

- Children did not receive adequate intensity or duration of mental health services to meet their needs.
- Children didn't receive adequate monitoring to assure that recommended mental health services were actually received.
- There was an insufficiency of services to meet the prevalence of child/adolescent mental health needs and the needs of their family.

Additional Barriers:

The caseworker's struggles to address these concerns can be even more difficult due to extensive waiting lists for treatment services and long geographical distances (especially in rural areas), which makes it difficult to access services.

How Barriers Impact Outcomes:

These barriers impact positive outcomes for improving child/adolescent mental health issues as well as timeliness in which a child or his/her family might have in completing goals and objectives. Family-focused treatment is also difficult to access within the mental health system and as a result, family systemic issues are often not addressed in conjunction with the child's areas of need.

How to Take Action:

- Caseworkers should be diligent in accessing services for children and adolescents in need of mental health services.
- Caseworkers should engage families in the process of establishing reasonable goals and objectives when conducting service planning.
- Caseworker should seek out and advocate for family-focused treatment.
- Caseworkers should follow through with requesting and obtaining progress reports as well as documenting treatment services.