

Here4YOUth System of Care Financial Analysis Executive Summary, September 2020

Context

The Here4YOUth initiative is a focused effort to improve the Sarasota behavioral health system of care so that all Sarasota youth and their families have the supports they need to thrive. Stakeholders across the county are engaged in the effort, under the leadership of Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and Gulf Coast Community Foundation. This work focused on developing a financial analysis of the current state and financial roadmap for the future, building on knowledge of the current funding landscape and areas of opportunity in Sarasota County.

Executive summary of financial analysis

There is ~\$44M in total funding for youth behavioral health in Sarasota County, with ~70-75% of spend coming from public and local sources (including philanthropy).¹

- Sources include: Commercial insurance (~28%), Philanthropy (~8%), Federal Medicaid (~16%), State Medicaid (9%), Other Federal (~9%), Other state (~15%), County (~13%) and Local & Regional (~2%).
- This analysis focused on public and local sources of funding, including: ~\$8M on broad-based services (e.g., universal promotion and prevention); ~\$13M on community-based (e.g., behavioral health outpatient care); ~\$6M on inpatient/emergency/residential (e.g., hospital emergency department care); ~\$3M on system-wide supports (e.g., training and supports for clinical workforce).
- There are five service areas that account for more than 70% of all public and local spending today: behavioral health outpatient care (~26-28%); Universal promotion and prevention (~11-13%); School-based services² (~11-13%); Inpatient services (~9-11%); Residential Care (~9-11%).
- Analysis is at the system-level and does not incorporate number of youth served. Per capita spend on inpatient services, emergency department and residential services is significantly higher than broad-based and community-based services.

Eight potential ROI-positive ideas to improve youth behavioral health care have been identified through this work, based on a combination of data review, stakeholder interviews, and best practices research:

- Expand access to community-based mental health promotion and mental illness/substance use disorder prevention.
- Increase school-based prevention and early intervention, including within school health programs
- Increase capacity of pediatric and primary care providers in the community to identify and treat behavioral health conditions.

¹ Behavioral health spend refers to spending for all care for mental health and substance use disorders – does not include halo spend on physical health services for patients with behavioral health diagnoses (see appendix for services included); excludes pharmacy spend. Youth refers to children and transition aged youth from the ages 0-24. Excludes out of pocket spend (including roughly ~700K of known out of pocket spend collected from local data sources). Philanthropy reflected in this analysis is not exhaustive, and includes Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, United Way Suncoast, and Wilson Wood Foundation.

² School-based services includes some but not all behavioral health spend through Sarasota County Schools; some spend included in behavioral health outpatient treatment and prevention.

- Increase assessment and consultation for early identification and response to behavioral health needs, including trauma.
- Increase care navigators available to families and youth, as well as broader resources for individuals supporting youth navigating the system.
- Increase continuum of available crisis response services and resources in the community, including crisis respite.
- Increase availability of care models focused on clients with complex needs (e.g., coordinated specialty care); where appropriate, decrease reliance on inpatient and residential care, particularly when care that is needed is not available within the county.
- Build capabilities for care providers to bill insurance.

A preliminary assessment of these ideas has been done based on the potential financial impact (return on investment), time to implement and initial investment required. Looking ahead, plans to build on this work through 2020 include continued engagement with stakeholders for further feedback and prioritization of specific initiatives to pursue as a system in the future.