

REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY 31, 2023
20 ILCS 540/Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act

History

Pursuant to the custody Relinquishment Prevention Act, outcomes and data are to be reported annually by the Department of the Children and Family Services (DCFS).

This law became effective January 1, 2015 and establishes a pathway for families seeking services for their child's serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. This Act seeks to change the pattern of psychiatric hospitals reporting to DCFS when insurance/Medicaid deems the child ready for discharge, despite the absence of abuse or neglect, when the parent cannot safely maintain their emotionally disturbed/mentally ill child in the home. The goal of the law is to divert youth at risk of custody relinquishment to DCFS.

Such relinquishment of parental custody is commonly referred to as a "lockout." This happens when insurance/Medicaid deems that further hospitalization for a child is going to be "beyond medical necessity," yet parents report the hospital discharge plan recommends services that are unavailable (e.g. residential or other intensive in-home supports). The Department, per rule, will initiate an investigation on a "lockout" *if the parent or caregiver has denied the child access to the home and has refused or failed to make provisions for another living arrangement for the child.*

To implement this Act, an intergovernmental agreement was completed 4/19/16 between the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), the Illinois Department of healthcare and Family Services (HFS), the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Illinois Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). These agencies then came together to develop a program plan defined as the Specialized Family Support Program (SFSP). This program is an expansion of the Illinois behavioral health crisis response system for youth, jointly utilizing the resources already found in the Screening, Assessment, and Support Services (SASS), Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) and Intensive Placement Stabilization Services (IPS). Through leveraging existing state resources and altering key programmatic policies to accommodate the special needs of this population, the SFSP seeks to establish a pathway for youth at risk of custody relinquishment to receive services through the appropriate child serving agency.

An Interagency Clinical Team (ICT) with members from all participating state agencies was established to begin the process of operationalizing the SFSP. A training plan was developed with all agencies and community stakeholders receiving the same training and message, designed to address the needs and questions of each stakeholder. Training for all stakeholders occurred prior to the SFSP launch date of April 1, 2017. Repeat and additional training was also provided to any stakeholder requesting such to ensure they understood the parameters of the program. Along with the training plan, a parent handbook was developed, as was a FAQ sheet and a consent form for families participating in the SFSP program.

2023

Section 20. Outcomes and data reported annually to the General Assembly.

(1) 17 children were relinquished to the Department of Children and Family Services for purposes of receiving treatment for their serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance.

(2) The length of treatment and the status of those 17 children and youth at the termination of services:

Region/CBP	Length of treatment; Status at termination of services
Camelot	<p>Length of treatment: 5 months total, April 4, 2022 – May 20, 2022 (1) Inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric treatment. 1.5 months August 10, 2022 – August 26, 2022 (2) Partial Hospitalization Program. 2 weeks August 31, 2022 – October 12, 2022 (3) In Home Therapy. 1.5 months (Changed placements) November 14, 2022 - present (4) Therapy services. 1.5 months (through December 2022) Still ongoing. Status of Treatment: Therapy still ongoing; stabilized Duration of Service: 5 months total of services</p>
Central	<p>Length of treatment: no treatment, on wait list for individual counseling. Status of treatment: not completed, youth is stable in home. Duration of service: no service</p>
Northern	<p>Length of Treatment: 13 months total. January 2022-January 2023. 1.) Inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric treatment - 2 months. 2.) Outpatient therapy - 10 months. Status of Treatment: Completed hospitalization; stabilized with outpatient therapy. Duration of Service: 12 months total of services (outpatient therapy ongoing).</p>
Central	<p>Length of Treatment: 8 months total. May 2022 - January 2023 (1) inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric treatment 3 months (2) outpatient therapy - 5 months at Aunt Martha's care center Status of Treatment: completed hospitalization; stabilized, engaged in treatment at Aunt Martha's Care Center Duration of Service: 8 months total of services</p>
Northern	<p>Length of Treatment: 10 months total, April 2022-January 2023. 1. Inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric treatment - 3 months. 2. Residential treatment - 7 months. Status of Treatment: Not stabilized. Duration of Service: 10 months total of services.</p>
Southern	<p>Length of Treatment: Arrived at CATU on Dec 29th 2022- present Status: not completed/ not stabilized. Duration of Service: continues to receive services</p>

Central	<p>Length of Treatment: 15 days total, 6/21/22-7/6/22 inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric; 6 months total, 7/22-present outpatient mental health services</p> <p>Status of treatment: completed/stabilized; not completed/stabilized</p> <p>Duration of service: 15 days total of services; 6 months total of services</p>
Central	15 days total, 6/21/22-7/6/22 inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric; 6 months total, 7/22-present outpatient mental health services
National Youth Advocate	Youth is placed with NYAP since 9/12/2022 . Youth has been assigned a therapist and a Treatment advocate. Youth refused therapy. Youth meets with Treatment Advocate weekly. Status of services, it is ongoing for the past three months and not completed. Youth is not stabilized.
Central	<p>Length of treatment: 2 months total; 3/6/22-5/9/22 inpatient hospitalization for psychiatric; 5 months total; 8/2/22-present residential treatment facility for emotional/behavioral issues.</p> <p>Status of treatment: completed/stabilized; not completed/not stabilized</p> <p>Duration of service: 2 months total of services; 5 months total of services</p>
Cook	<p><u>Length of Treatment</u> 4 months total 09/15/22; Hospital Facility Psychiatric/Medical (Hartgrove) for 67 days 1/17/23 (57 days) Integrated Care Center until</p> <p><u>Status</u> Services are ongoing at this time.</p> <p><u>Duration</u> 4 months total of services 1/17/23 (57 days)</p>
Cook	<p>Length of Treatment: 3 months total. Admitted in a Psychiatric Hospital on August 10, 2022 through October 11, 2022.</p> <p>Status: Stabilized.</p> <p>Duration: 3 months total of services</p>
Cook	<p>Length of Treatment: 3 months (currently) 10/26/22 to present.</p> <p>Status: Youth has yet to complete services.</p> <p>Duration: Currently 3 months, Youth has not completed services.</p>
Cook	<p><u>Length of Treatment:</u>5 months (currently). Riveredge from 9/8/22 thru 11/7/22 - 2 months.</p> <p>Transitioned to ICC - Chicago on 11/7/22 to present</p> <p>Status: Youth has not completed services.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> Currently 5 months, Youth has not completed services</p>

Cook	<p><u>Length of Treatment</u>1/31/2023 1 year (currently) Streamwood Hospital: 01/12/22-08/10/22 Lawrence Hall: 08/10/22 - present <u>Status:</u> Youth has not completed services <u>Duration</u> Currently 1 year as Youth has not completed services</p>
Cook	<p><u>Length of Treatment</u> 10 months total Streamwood Behavioral Health inpatient: 02-21-22 - 05-11-22 <u>Status:</u> 1/31/2023 Continue Individual Therapy, school and family therapy - stabilize <u>Duration:</u> 1/31/2023 10 months total of services</p>
Cook	<p><u>Length of Treatment:</u> 6 months (currently). <u>Status:</u> Youth has yet to complete services. <u>Duration:</u> Currently 6 months as KE has not completed services.</p>

- (3) 105 children were intercepted during the reporting period and were connected with other agencies to prevent custody relinquishment and to stabilize the child or youth.
- (4) The duration of the services the child or youth received in order to stabilize his or her serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. Reference Table above.
- (5) Following the connection to services through the most appropriate State agency to address the child or youth's needs, 5 families failed to stabilize and turned to the Department of Children and Family Services for services, and that relinquished custody or whose child was adjudicated a dependent minor pursuant to subdivision (c) of paragraph (1) of Section 2-4 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.