

Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board

Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 17a-22ff

2024 Annual Report

Presentation to the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and
Planning Committee

December 18, 2024

Tri-Chairs:

Elisabeth Cannata, PhD

Carl Schiessl, JD

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Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan

Offers a blueprint to ensure that the state's behavioral health system and its services promote well-being and meet the mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs for all children in our state.

Finalized in 2014 as required by Public Act 13-178.

Developed with broad-based input from families, service providers, and stakeholders at open forums, facilitated discussions, and community conversations held across the state.

Continues to guide the state's work to improve children's behavioral health systems.



Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board

Established in 2015 per Public Act 15-27.

The board is charged with advising member agencies, service providers, advocates, and others on the execution of the behavioral health plan for all children in Connecticut.

Membership reflects the broad coalition that comprises the children's behavioral health system.

Annual report is submitted that reflects the collective work of members to implement the plan.

Families with Lived Expertise
Behavioral Health Providers
Family Advocates
Medical Providers
Private Foundations

Regional Advisory Councils
School-Based Health Centers

Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Department of Social Services (DSS)

Department of Public Health (DPH)

Department of Mental Health and
Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Connecticut Insurance Department (CID)

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Department of Labor (DOL)

Office of the Governor

Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

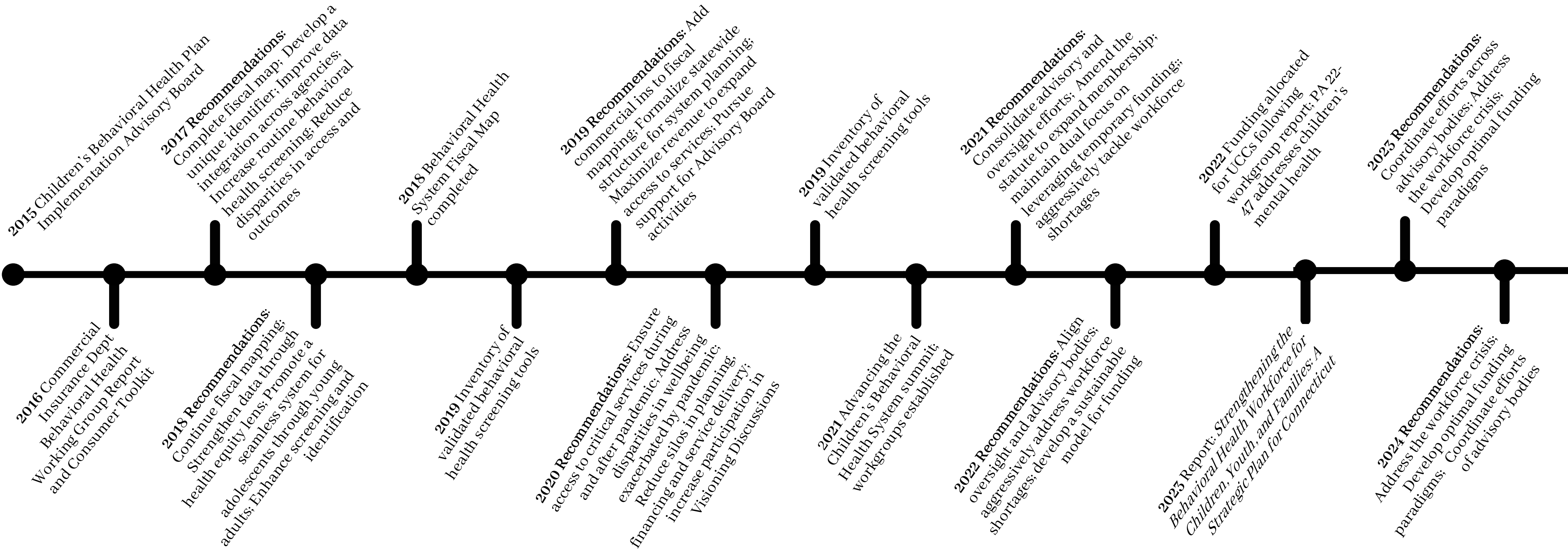
Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA)

Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO)

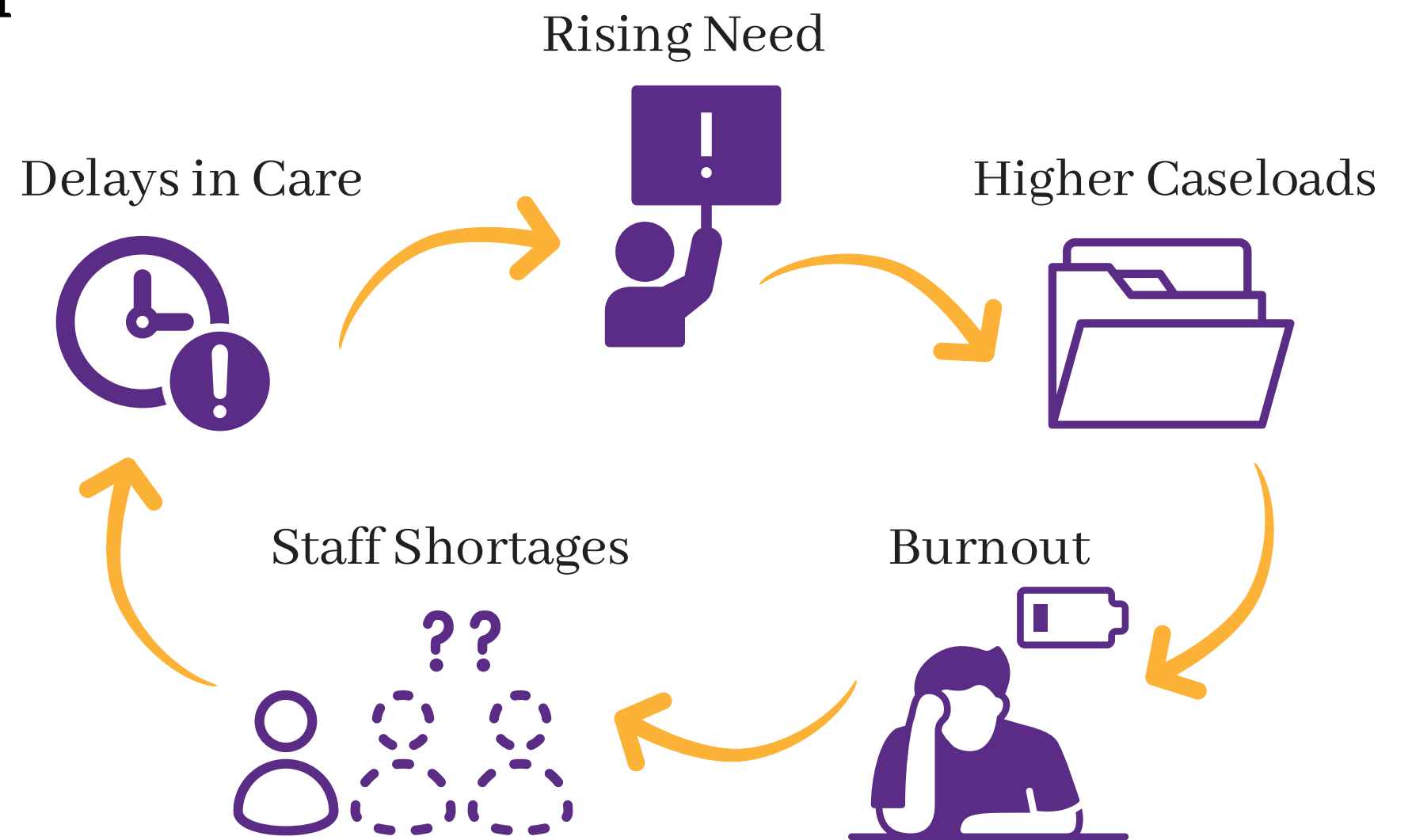
Advisory Board Annual Report Recommendations and Highlights



Address the Workforce Crisis

Severe workforce shortages across the system and at every level of care are causing waitlists for services and delays in care and an escalating cycle of workforce needs.

The strengths of Connecticut's system of care are being undone by the workforce crisis.



Address the Workforce Crisis

Implement the recommendations in the Workforce Strategic Plan.

Prioritize Recommendation 1: Increase reimbursement for children's behavioral health services to cover actual costs of high-quality care and establish a transparent and systematic rate-setting process.

In the next year, the Advisory Board will address Recommendation 7: Expand the family and youth peer support workforce.



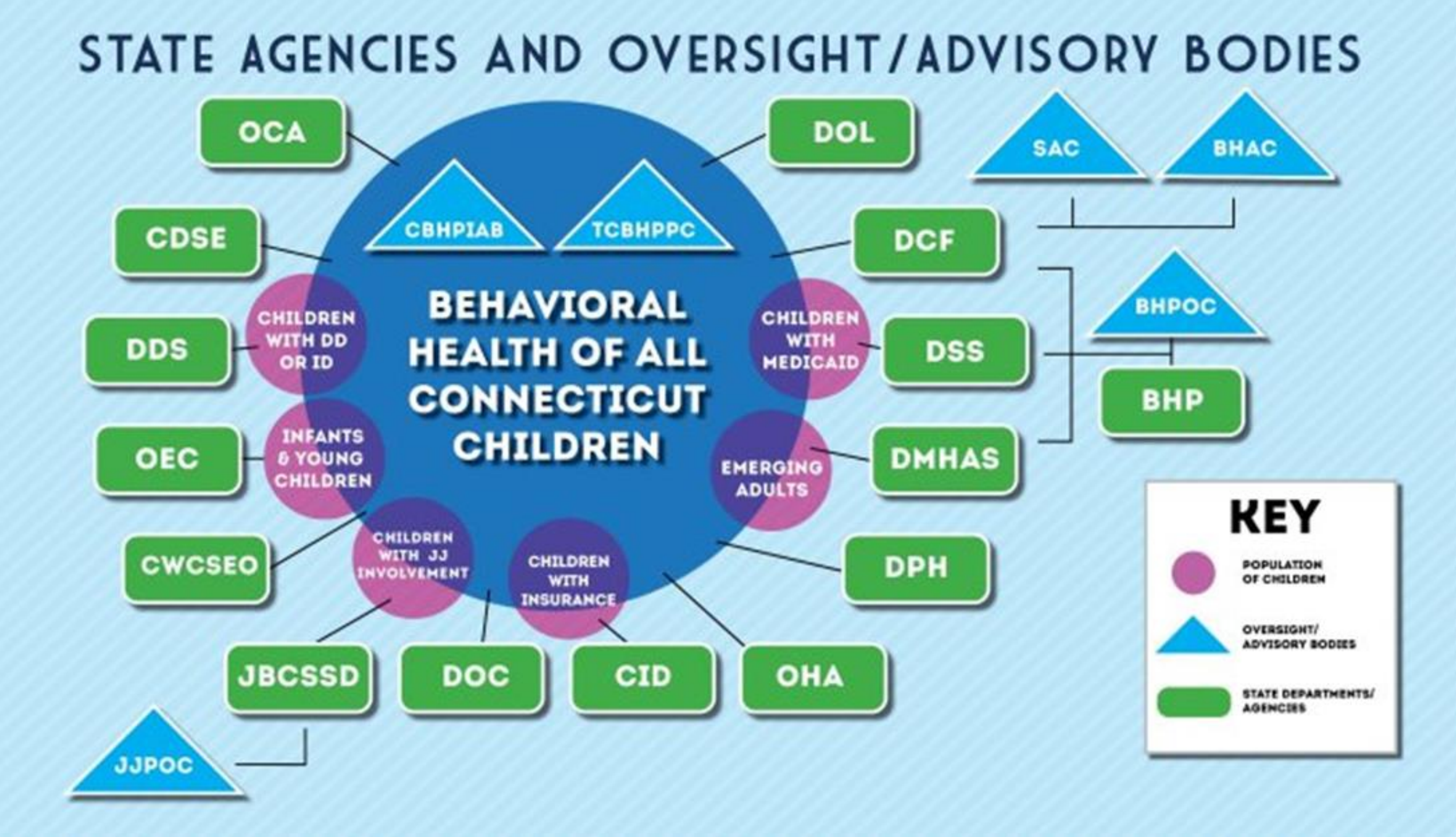
Develop Optimal Funding Paradigms

In 2018, the Advisory Board engaged Carelon to work with DSS and DCF to develop a fiscal map of children's behavioral health services, using data from 2015-2018, to inform our work.

The Advisory Board recommends that this fiscal map be completed again in 2025, and that it be expanded to include private insurance spending, in addition to Medicaid.



Coordinate Efforts of Advisory Bodies



Coordinate Efforts of Advisory Bodies

2024 Advisory Board meetings focused on alignment of advisory bodies with presentations by:

- Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- State Advisory Council
- Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council

Joint CBHPIAB and CBHAC meeting planned for January.

Ongoing alignment and collaboration is necessary.



Opportunities for Partnership

1. Collaborate in implementing recommendations from the Workforce Strategic Plan and efforts to raise Medicaid rates in particular.
2. Join us in recommending dedicated funding for the completion of new expanded fiscal mapping across the behavioral health system.
3. Participate in reciprocal annual meetings, enabling the Advisory Board to update the full TCB on our activities after publication of our Annual Reports and for the TCB leadership to update the full Advisory Board on its recommendations.



In Closing...

The children's behavioral health system in Connecticut has many strengths but they are threatened by the severe workforce crisis.

Without immediate action, the service system will erode further.

The TCB and the CBHPIAB share many common interests, including addressing insurance reimbursement, recruiting and retaining a highly qualified workforce, strengthening infrastructure, and expanding access to services.

We are presented with an opportunity to leverage each of our distinct roles and strengths, including TCB's legislative focus and the CBHPIAB's inter-agency implementation of programs and services, to work in partnership to address the immediate challenges.

