

Q19 If the demand for any mental health services for CHILDREN is unmet, what are some actions taken?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 126

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Utilizing school sites host open house mental health clinic for children a place where they can be seen before or after school placing (choosing) one site per area	6/24/2025 12:02 PM
2	I don't know	6/24/2025 10:49 AM
3	At Children's ER, I've noticed an adjustment in the design of how they treat behavioral-mental health emergencies that is more effective, like providing more instructions for parents and referrals for follow-up. But in schools, we are overwhelmed with children (many in elementary) who have suicidal ideation and occasionally actual attempts, who then need safety plans that require access to a safe person to attend to them until parents can pick them up and school counselors are already overwhelmed with far too many demands (many of which have nothing to do with school counseling like testing, managing 504s, teaching specials, or managing car pool). We don't want to just send these kids home, but schools don't have many mental health resources in schools. Often there is only one counselor in an elementary school with 600-1,000 children. We complete risk assessments, create safety plans, inform all adults serving the student of the plan, collaborate with any already in place outside mental health providers, and counsel children. But when a child in crisis needs help that day and didn't already have a regular therapist, it can take weeks to months to get them in with someone. In the meantime, school counselors try to fill that gap and maintain all the other demands.	6/24/2025 10:19 AM
4	1. Expand Access Points for Care Telehealth Services: Increase virtual counseling and psychiatric evaluations, especially for rural or underserved families. School-Based Mental Health Programs: Partner with school systems to place therapists or social workers in schools, making services more accessible during the school day. Integrated Pediatric Care: Embed mental health screenings and services within pediatric primary care visits. 2. Increase Provider Capacity Recruit and train child-focused professionals (e.g., child psychologists, play therapists, LPCs). Offer loan repayment incentives for professionals who work in high-need areas. Expand supervision pathways to help early-career clinicians specialize in pediatric mental health. 3. Expand Crisis and Acute Services Develop or expand: Mobile crisis units to respond to urgent mental health situations at home or school. Crisis stabilization units (CSUs) specifically for youth as alternatives to ER visits. Inpatient psychiatric beds to reduce ER boarding and long waits for admission. 4. Strengthen Community-Based Services Increase funding for: Outpatient therapy (individual, group, family). Intensive in-home services or wraparound care for children with complex needs. Early intervention services for children showing signs of emotional or developmental concerns. 5. Improve System Coordination and Navigation Employ mental health navigators or case managers to help families connect to the right services. Create centralized referral systems that track availability across providers. Increase coordination between schools, pediatricians, child welfare, and behavioral health providers. 6. Policy and Funding Initiatives Use state and federal grants to expand services (e.g., through SAMHSA or Medicaid). Enforce mental health parity laws to ensure insurance covers behavioral health equally with medical care. Advocate for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates to incentivize providers to accept child patients. 7. Raise Awareness and Reduce Stigma Launch public education campaigns to promote early help-seeking. Provide family education workshops on recognizing signs of anxiety, depression, or trauma in children.	6/24/2025 10:10 AM
5	Prescription medication	6/23/2025 8:12 PM
6	Unknown	6/23/2025 10:31 AM
7	Continue to partner together and advocate for more access	6/23/2025 10:25 AM
8	Not taken	6/23/2025 9:29 AM
9	I don't know	6/18/2025 9:54 AM
10	Many are part of our unhoused community. Also may be criminalized and cycled through	6/8/2025 4:38 PM

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	incarceration and recidivism.7	
11	Lobby for additional beds with the department of mental health and legislation.	6/6/2025 12:25 PM
12	Need for more mental health services.	6/6/2025 11:51 AM
13	Increased access to services through school system.	6/5/2025 5:44 PM
14	PARENTS TEND TO IGNORE WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THEIR CHILD	6/5/2025 5:09 PM
15	COA is currently working on expanding bedspace for kids.	6/5/2025 2:52 PM
16	Major behavior issues, social and emotional issues, school absenteeism, family issues, suicide	6/5/2025 2:27 PM
17	They are adding more beds to existing in-patient facility to fill the need.	6/5/2025 2:06 PM
18	Need more quality mental healthcare inpatient and outpatient services	6/5/2025 1:19 PM
19	Unfortunately children are sent home unmet.	6/5/2025 10:06 AM
20	same as above with advocacy for long term placement	6/5/2025 9:56 AM
21	Children who need assistance do not get their needs met and return to schools with those issue	6/5/2025 8:26 AM
22	Not sure	6/5/2025 8:19 AM
23	IDK	6/4/2025 8:49 PM
24	na	6/4/2025 1:48 PM
25	The child have to remain in the household until a space comes available for that child.	6/4/2025 11:27 AM
26	unknown	6/3/2025 11:37 AM
27	Children's added more beds but still aren't meeting the demands.	6/3/2025 9:44 AM
28	Children are discharged back into the community sooner. Often it is a revolving door with the child having multiple hospitalizations for stabilization due to the lack of community or residential placements.	6/2/2025 4:10 PM
29	Children's ED Psych pop is full all the time the inpatient beds are full all the time. The small hospitals that have to keep the kids there are not equipped to handle them. So they are shipped off to a place that can.	6/2/2025 1:13 PM
30	I don't know	6/2/2025 1:13 PM
31	not sure	5/29/2025 9:20 PM
32	When children's behaviors are extreme, parents and schools do not have the resources for them. They need a place to go	5/29/2025 12:48 PM
33	No clue	5/28/2025 4:22 PM
34	Unsure.	5/28/2025 3:53 PM
35	Again, I don't think there are!	5/28/2025 2:55 PM
36	They are often sent, out of county or out of state to behavioral health facilities away from community and family support.	5/28/2025 2:51 PM
37	The kids end up spending days or weeks in the ER, waiting for a bed.	5/28/2025 2:31 PM
38	Children's is expanding beds within the next 5 years	5/28/2025 2:13 PM
39	NA	5/28/2025 1:39 PM
40	More facilities are needed	5/27/2025 8:32 PM
41	They return to school only to be re admitted to the hospital soon after	5/27/2025 1:36 PM
42	That a million dollar question I can answer	5/23/2025 6:16 PM
43	NA	5/23/2025 1:51 PM

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44	They are expelled from school, labeled by school personnel, seek treatment elsewhere, etc.	5/23/2025 12:32 PM
45	same as above for children	5/23/2025 11:44 AM
46	I find that typically it is hard to locate mental health/behavioral services for children under the age of 5 or 6.	5/23/2025 10:47 AM
47	Waiting rooms, out of county, out of state placements as needed.	5/23/2025 10:12 AM
48	Behavior concerns would continue to rise.	5/22/2025 6:49 PM
49	Children's PIRC	5/22/2025 4:41 PM
50	I do not know	5/22/2025 3:46 PM
51	Unsure	5/22/2025 1:36 PM
52	They keep them in the ER until families give up due to the wait time.	5/22/2025 1:09 PM
53	Idk	5/22/2025 11:25 AM
54	Communities and agencies such as school based mental health get involved to provide services for the child/children.	5/22/2025 11:22 AM
55	Connect the kids to in-school mental health programs	5/22/2025 11:07 AM
56	More services to parents and families	5/22/2025 10:23 AM
57	Agencies as JBS attempt to pick up the slack however there is still a overload and these children's needs are not being met.	5/22/2025 10:05 AM
58	Idk	5/22/2025 9:57 AM
59	Schools are now providing mental health services for children but the demand is so great that trained professionals in schools are overwhelmed.	5/22/2025 9:37 AM
60	First 5 Alabama , provide some support but more is needed.	5/22/2025 9:21 AM
61	Most children will end up in criminal justice programs.	5/22/2025 8:39 AM
62	I do not know	5/22/2025 8:21 AM
63	Don't understand.	5/20/2025 1:47 PM
64	Children's of Ala. created the PIRC several years ago which is a resource center specifically designed to link children /families with pediatric mental health services across the state. Also, many of us working in early childhood mental health at the state level are working to increase access to care. ADMH and Children's of Ala. partnered in 2018 to create Pediatric Access to Telemental Health Services (PATHS) and this is still in place today (in year 7 of an 8 year HRSA grant). We are working on sustainability once the federal grant ends. Contact Margo Harwell at margo.harwell@childrensal.org for more information. ADMH also has a federal grant through SAMHSA that is funding PPEER, an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health focused grant targeting children birth-12 years and their families who are at risk of or already in state welfare services. We are in year 2 of a 5 year grant for this and increasing workforce capacity to serve these children's MH needs as well as delivering or referring for MH services is our goal in Jefferson, Jackson, and Mobile counties initially but we plan to expand into other counties as well. Contact Beth Jones at beth.jones@mh.alabama.gov for more information.	5/20/2025 8:59 AM
65	Therapy	5/20/2025 4:17 AM
66	I don't know	5/19/2025 1:29 PM
67	I don't know	5/19/2025 11:51 AM
68	Make it more readily available in the ER or schools.	5/19/2025 10:48 AM
69	some have left the state, most use the ER repeatedly	5/19/2025 10:09 AM
70	Possible court involvement, inappropriate non therapeutic placements.	5/19/2025 10:05 AM
71	Children sit in the emergency room for hours and days to find placement.	5/19/2025 9:56 AM
72	Children's rarely admits children that are sent to ER.	5/19/2025 9:07 AM

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73	I do not know this answer	5/19/2025 8:58 AM
74	Unmet needs will adversely affect educational, physical, social, and developmental outcomes.	5/19/2025 8:49 AM
75	Parents and practitioners may rely heavily on outpatient services which may not meet the needs of the child.	5/19/2025 8:45 AM