



Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Division Strategic Plan 2024-2025

Vision

A comprehensive and coordinated public mental health and substance abuse system that provides access to services for Arkansans of all ages at the right time and right place to meet their needs regardless of where they live.

Mission

Improve the well-being of all Arkansans by providing access to a robust array of mental health and substance abuse services.

Objectives

Strategic Objective 1

Develop and provide early identification and intervention for children/youth with mental health needs.

Action Plan

- Work with the Division of Medical Services (DMS) to fully develop the HealthySteps program and integrate with Patient Centered Medical Home.
- Examine Infant Mental Health program utilization for its potential to be delivered in pediatrician offices or other community-based partners.
- Measure outcomes for Families in Transition Team (FiTT); Prevention, Stabilization and Support Project for Young Children (PSSP-YC); and Comprehensive Screening and Assessment for Children (CASC) pilots and develop a plan for continued Medicaid payment through appropriate Medicaid authority.
- Assess other school and community-based programs (e.g., Project Play, Project AWARE) for integration with the Prevention, Stabilization, and Support Project for Young Children (PSSP-YC) pilot.

Strategic Objective 2

Ensure that children and youth who have a Serious Emotional Disturbance have access to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to reduce the likelihood of the need for institutional services.

Action Plan

- Work with the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Division of Youth Services (DYS) to assess barriers to service and increase use of Residential Community Reintegration.
- Use outcomes from Family Centered Treatment pilot to develop Intensive In-Home service for addition to the AR Medicaid State Plan.
- Study current HCBS being provided to children/youth to determine utilization patterns to inform policy decisions.



Strategic Objective 3

Refine and develop institutional services for children/youth to treat mental health and substance use diagnoses.

Action Plan

- Rewrite existing Inpatient Psychiatric Service for Under Age 21 manuals to include more detailed service definitions and quality measures.
- Promulgate Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility service manual to include a sexual rehabilitation program.
- Promulgate Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital service manual to include units to treat substance use disorders.

Strategic Objective 4

Develop and provide early identification and intervention for adult mental health.

Action Plan

- Continue work with UAMS on First Episode of Psychosis Project to determine sustainability and potential for statewide support.
- Administer SAMHSA Behavioral Health/Primary Care integration grant to develop AR Collaborative Care model.

Strategic Objective 5

Ensure that adults who have a Serious Mental Illness receive needed Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to reduce the likelihood of the need for institutional services.

Action Plan

- Assess data from Rehabilitative Day Service Project to inform development of daily rate service.
- Continue work with stakeholder group to analyze needs of adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) service gaps and develop policy to support development of new services.
- Work with AR DMS to develop transitional care coordination/case management model to serve SMI adults who are moving into or between HCBS settings.
- Examine adult Behavioral Health Independent Assessment tool to streamline reassessment process.
- Develop new procurement for Community Mental Health Centers clearly defining “safety net” services for SMI adults and connection to the criminal justice system.

Strategic Objective 6

Refine and develop institutional services for adults to treat mental health and substance use diagnoses.

Action Plan

- Obtain CMS approval and implement the Mental Health Institutions for Mental Disease waiver.
- Reconstitute an adult crisis and assessment unit at the AR State Hospital (ASH).



Strategic Objective 7

Improve the timelines for individuals who enter the forensic system.

Action Plan

- Work with stakeholders to examine barriers and develop potential solutions to moving adults through the forensic process including changes to operations, policy, contracting/payment, and legislation.
- Procure vendor to open a separate Secure Restoration unit(s) within ASH.

Strategic Objective 8

Develop full continuum of substance use disorder services.

Action Plan

- Develop the State Opioid Response IV application to move towards Medicaid sustainability for any applicable program.
- Work with DCFS to develop braided funding for Specialized Women's Services programs.
- Obtain CMS approval of the Reentry/IMD waiver.
- Develop policies for AR Medicaid for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) continuum of services.
- Work with existing SUD service providers to prepare for AR Medicaid enrollment.

Strategic Objective 9

Refine and develop sustainable funding for substance use disorder recovery services.

Action Plan

- Develop a plan for movement to new contracting and funding to include AR Medicaid payment for sustainability.
- Update training and move certification from the AR DHS Division of Provider Support and Quality Assurance (DPSQA) to an external partner.

Strategic Objective 10

Create a full Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum

Action Plan

- Promulgate Medicaid policy to update Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) service.
- Work with existing CSUs to assess continued sustainability beyond State General Revenue and assess utilization after rule changes.