

Ohio Senate Medicaid Committee**May 15, 2025****Integrated Services for Behavioral Health Proponent Testimony on HB96**

Chair Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 96. My name is Cory D'Ambrosio and I am the Managing Director of OhioRISE Care Coordination at Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH). We are an agency that provides a comprehensive array of community-based behavioral health and youth and family services in Southeast and Central Ohio. I am honored to be here today to talk about OhioRISE and the impact the program is having on children and families across our state.

ISBH is one of the Care Management Entities providing OhioRISE care coordination to youth with complex behavioral health and multisystem needs. OhioRISE has created over 190 jobs within our organization, across 19 counties. Through care coordination, OhioRISE brings together families, providers, and systems like child protection, juvenile justice, and the education system to create a single plan that supports the young person's behavioral health needs and helps families access critical services and resources. Often families come to us feeling overwhelmed and unsure of how to navigate their journey ahead.

As an example, one family we are serving through care coordination came to us struggling to support their son living with multiple behavioral health diagnosis. Due to an unreliable vehicle, their son's medication refills had expired, and they were no longer linked to any behavioral health services. Through OhioRISE Care Coordination, we were able to form a team to address the barriers to treatment this family was experiencing. The team linked the family back with a psychiatrist and to a local community resource to assist with fixing their vehicle making it much easier to attend medical appointments and make trips to the pharmacy. Since this youth has been back on their medication and working hard on his coping skills, they have thrived and been able to transition out of a behavioral health classroom and recently told his team that "I feel like a whole new person." This is one of many stories of success.

The benefits of OhioRISE and the new and improved services are visible and making an impact across our communities. Families receive support in their homes through Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) to help prevent unnecessary emergency department visits and Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT) to stabilize and improve a young person's functioning. Behavioral Health Respite provides temporary relief to a youth's primary caregiver, reducing out of home placements. Primary flex funds allow for the purchase of items such as lock boxes to keep medications secure, attending classes at local businesses to enhance social skills, and access to additional services like equine therapy to reduce the need for other Medicaid services while helping them remain at home and better participate in their community. We see OhioRISE working every day for youth and families and are grateful for the opportunity to provide these critical services.

Chair Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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