



# 2017 POLICY SUMMARY

The goal of the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative (CBHC) is to transform New Hampshire's current mental health and substance use disorder system into one that is comprehensive, integrated, and family- and youth-driven. In the 2017 legislative session, the CBHC successfully advocated for several positive state-level policy changes to help achieve that goal.

## THE STATE BUDGET

The two-year state budget includes funding for children's wraparound health services, access to mobile crisis centers, and other necessary paths to ensure children's access to mental health supports.

### **SB 235** RELATIVE TO MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT TO SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

*CBHC supported, bill signed into law*

SB 235 modifies state restrictions that limited Medicaid reimbursement to schools for children with IEPs, allowing more schools to keep children in their home districts by providing the medical services required to allow full educational participation.

### **HB 400** REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO DEVELOP A 10-YEAR PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

*CBHC supported, bill signed into law*

HB 400 provides multiple supports for children and families which will improve access to behavioral health services, including expanding the availability of wraparound supports and services to a wider group of children with severe behavioral health issues.

### **HB 468** RELATIVE TO LICENSURE OF MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS FROM OTHER STATES

*CBHC supported, bill signed into law*

HB 468 removes a critical licensing barrier for mental health professionals becoming licensed to practice in New Hampshire, helping address NH's behavioral health workforce shortage and ensuring children get the behavioral health supports that they need.

### **HB 538** REQUIRING TEMPORARY LICENSURE OF A PERSON HOLDING AN OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE IN ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY

*CBHC supported, bill signed into law*

HB 538 allows mental health practitioners holding a license in another state to begin working in New Hampshire immediately, helping address NH's behavioral health workforce shortage and ensuring children get the behavioral health supports that they need.