



## NH Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and May 6th is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Yesterday, we [gathered on State House Lawn](#) to kick off the month's festivities, raise awareness, and recognize great work being done to support resilient children and a strong System of Care.



As we gear up for Mental Health Awareness Month and Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, we are glad to look back at the work that members of the collaborative have done over the past few months, and look forward to some upcoming, exciting projects and events!

Not sure what to do to support children's mental health awareness? Join us at a Collaborative-sponsored event or [check out this interactive calendar](#) sponsored by the NH Department of Education's Bureau of Student Wellness. Each day features a suggestion of something to do - large or small. Click on a box to learn more!

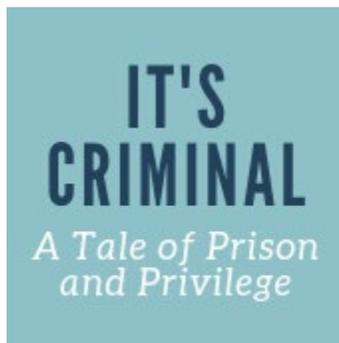
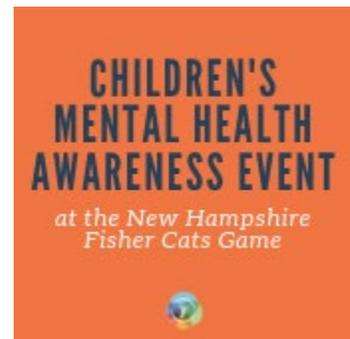
*Dellie Champagne, Community Engagement Coordinator*

*Becky Whitley, Policy Director*

## Fisher Cats Game

This Sunday, May 5th we will celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness and the Magnify Voices Film and Writing Contest with the NH Fisher Cats.

[GET THE DETAILS](#)



## It's Criminal Screening

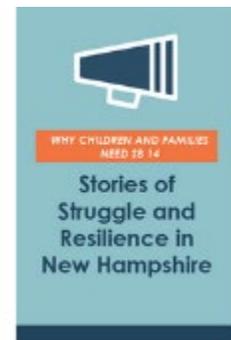
Along with Riverbend Community Mental Health Center, the NH Institute for Civics Education, and sponsors, we will host a screening of this moving documentary on May 15th at 6:00 p.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Storybook

Youth, families, and providers shared their stories of struggle and resilience in this powerful storybook in support of Senate Bill 14.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)



## Youth Summit & Magnify Voices Film and Writing Contest

The NH Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative was an integral partner in the [2019 Youth Summit](#) held Friday and Saturday April 5th and 6th. Over 350

students from New Hampshire high schools participated in the 2-day event in Concord.

The Collaborative also hosted the [Magnify Voices Film and Writing Festival](#) at the event on Friday afternoon. There were 50 submissions from youth in New Hampshire for the film and writing contest, an unbelievable accomplishment for the contest's inaugural year. The film and writing entries were powerful, honest, inspiring, and at time, heartbreaking. Here are [some pictures](#) from the festival and [an article from the Union Leader](#) about the event, which was thoughtfully emceed by First Lady Valerie Sununu.

[Click here to see the list of contest winners and to read and watch all of the incredibly powerful pieces.](#)



Members of the Collaborative and partners will continue to share the submissions around the state. The top 10 entries will be on display for the entire month of May at "[Do You Know...The Art Show](#)" at the Kimball Jenkins Carriage House in Concord. They will also be shared at the Collaborative's Children's Mental Health Awareness Event at the NH Fisher Cats game on May 5.

Partners around the state expressed their gratitude and praise for the event:

- *"The Magnify Voices event was absolutely marvelous. The Governor's wife was such an empathetic and gracious host to the amazing filmmakers and writers. The People's Choice video was fantastic. The results from the NH Listens conversations were insightful. I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it."*
- *"I just wanted to say how impressed I was by what you made happen. Young people who don't usually have a voice found theirs, thanks to you. I think the festival was the best thing about that day, unquestionably. And probably the one that will have the most impact. And the Collaborative will play its part in making that so."*

### **Resiliency Award**

*Surviving Trauma and Mental Illness,  
Naomi Vilcapoma*

Naomi submitted a raw, honest, and forceful writing piece which clearly exemplified her resilience and strength. Contest coordinators chose to award her with the Resiliency Award. As she said "youth struggle with mental illness every day, but one day everyone will see that this isn't the end. We are all strong. We can get through it!"

[Read the piece >>](#)

### **People's Choice Award**

*Mental Illness to Them,  
Bre Paquette*

Bre's passionate video about youth mental illness and stigma had a strong affect on those in the audience at the Youth Summit. The video showed Bre's strength and the strength of other youth in New Hampshire. As the People's Choice Award winner, Bre will throw out the first pitch at May 5's NH Fisher Cats game!

[Watch the video >>](#)

## **CBHC Policy Corner**

The CBHC's top policy priority this legislative session, [Senate Bill 14](#), is a bipartisan bill that builds on years of work all around New Hampshire to create and support a System of Care. SB 14 takes a systemic approach to improving the child welfare system and ensuring children and youth get the appropriate support services where and when they need them using a System of Care approach.

Specifically, SB 14:

- helps children and families in crisis by expanding access to community-based [mobile crisis response and stabilization services](#);
- further integrates child welfares services with NH's emerging System of Care for children's behavioral health; and

- makes improvements to the entire system in alignment with the [DCYF Adequacy and Enhancement Assessment](#), the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, and the [10-Year Mental Health Plan](#).

The bill also incorporates all the hard work from the Kids Count Juvenile Justice Project, a grant received from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

So far, to support SB 14:

- [Advocates](#) turned out in force to support the bill and share their stories at multiple hearings, including the latest hearing in the House Children and Family Law committee on April 9th.



- The Collaborative partnered with [New Futures Kids Count](#) and the Kent Street Coalition to help send over 600 postcards to NH lawmakers to support SB 14 and SB 274, access to home visiting services.

- The Collaborative was proud to be included in a filmed panel discussion at the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication at Franklin Pierce University on SB 14, sponsored by the [Granite State News Collaborative](#). The students did their research and asked compelling questions about the need to transform the child-serving system in New Hampshire.



- Community members and experts have been outspoken in their support of the bill by submitting letters to the editor and opinion editorials including:
  - [Increase availability of mobile crisis services](#), Darlene Gildersleeve
  - [Mobile crisis services for NH children](#), Martha Madsen
  - [Bills aim to help kids grow up safe and successful](#), Becky Whitley
  - [Why I support Senate Bill 14](#), David Parker
  - [Help NH be a leader in children's mental health](#), Kimberley Story & Ellie Catherine Coe
  - [We need to fill gaps in mental health care](#), Holly Fenn

- Strong voices continue to call their lawmakers in support of SB 14.



### **Call to Action: Senate Bill 14**

This priority piece of legislation will soon be voted on by the full NH House. Call your representative today!

**MAKE SOME CALLS**

For more information on [what's going on at the State House](#), contact Becky Whitley at [rwhitley@new-futures.org](mailto:rwhitley@new-futures.org). If you are able to share your story with lawmakers, contact Dellie Champagne at [dchampagne@new-futures.org](mailto:dchampagne@new-futures.org).

## **Workforce Network Updates**

The NH Children's Behavioral Health Workforce Development Network is in its 9th year, supporting cross-sector, interdisciplinary workforce development within the children's System of Care framework. Recently, the Workforce Network has:

1. Updated the CBHC's Children's Behavioral Health Core Competencies to expand competencies associated with integrated primary/behavioral health care and substance misuse services.
2. Scaled up NH's wraparound model to 29 trained Wraparound Coordinators statewide serving over 150 families who have children or youth with significant emotional or behavioral concerns.
3. Continued to expand implementation of RENEW in high schools and mental health centers across NH, as well as schools in Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Maryland, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, and Connecticut.
4. Launched a new MTSS-B Tier 1 training that incorporates social emotional skills development, trauma-informed approaches, and research-based practices.
5. Worked with NH's Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health to create a continuum of care model and a foundational workforce development system for youth with substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring mental health and SUD as part of the state's Youth Treatment Project.

[Click here for more information on the Workforce Development Network.](#)

## Citizens of the Year

Dellie Champagne, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Becky Whitley, Policy Director, were named Citizens of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers New Hampshire Chapter, a member of the Collaborative.



Thank you, [NASW NH](#), for your commitment to the betterment of New Hampshire's children's behavioral health system!

## CBHC in the News

Union Leader (4/26/19) - [Beyond the Stigma: 'Everyone deserves to be happy,' says UNH student with anxiety disorder](#)  
Union Leader (4/7/19) - [Youth Summit tackles tough issues in Concord](#)  
WMUR (4/5/19) - [Granite State high school students gather to discuss problems,](#)

[share](#) [solutions](#)  
 Concord Monitor (4/5/19) - [Students discuss mental health, diversity at Youth Summit](#)  
 WMUR (4/2/19) - [Hundreds of high schoolers set to attend Youth Summit 2019](#)  
 Union Leader (4/2/19) - [Sununu calls on lawmakers to fund \\$26M secure psychiatric unit](#)  
 Associated Press (3/18/19) - [Constituents advocate for programs they want in state budget](#)  
 Associated Press (3/17/19) - [Senate passes children's mental health bill](#)  
 Union Leader (3/14/19) - [Senate passes bill mandating child welfare system improvements](#)  
 Associated Press (3/14/19) - [Senate votes on school safety, mental health bills](#)  
 Seacoast Online (2/27/19) - [Stigma around mental illness shows itself in many ways](#)  
 Concord Monitor (2/21/19) - [Hope for an improved child behavioral health system](#)  
 Union Leader (2/21/19) - [Senate united on mental health, child protection bills worth \\$20 million](#)  
 NH Business Review (2/15/19) - [State's school discipline system is in need of reform](#)  
 Associated Press (2/12/19) - [Senate takes up children's behavioral health bill](#)  
 Concord Monitor (1/30/19) - [Families ask for suicide prevention training in NH schools](#)  
 NHPR (1/30/19) - [NH lawmakers consider overhaul of school discipline rules](#)  
 Union Leader (1/30/19) - [Parents of teen suicide victims want every NH teacher and administrator to get 2 hours of training annually](#)  
 Union Leader (1/28/19) - [Report: Minority, disabled kids suffer more from school suspensions, expulsions](#)  
 Associated Press (1/19/18) - [Legislation addresses some of child advocate's concerns](#)  
 Associated Press (1/14/19) - [Office of Child Advocate Releases First Annual Report](#)

## Upcoming Events

*Click on the event links for more information.*

*Contact Dellie Champagne at [dchampagne@new-futures.org](mailto:dchampagne@new-futures.org) to have your event listed in a future newsletter.*

- May 5: [New Hampshire Fisher Cats Game](#)
- May 8: [Creating Trauma-Responsive Early Childhood Classrooms](#), Franklin
- May 9: [Convergence](#), Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-Free Youth
- May 15: ["It's Criminal" Screening](#), CBHC & Riverbend Community Mental Health

- May 22: [Developing a Trauma Informed Souhegan Valley Community](#), CAST
- May 22: Creating Trauma-Responsive Early Childhood Classrooms, Pittsfield
- May 23 & 24: [Young Adult Prevention Training](#)
- Monthly: [Children's Resiliency Retreat Sessions](#), Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club

## Become a Member

The Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative is a diverse network of individuals and organizations who work in partnership to transform the way we support children with behavioral health needs. The Collaborative supports state-level policy changes to transform New Hampshire's children's mental health and substance use system into an integrated, comprehensive System of Care that is youth- and family-driven, community-based, and culturally and linguistically competent. [Check out this list of current collaborative members.](#)

Welcome our newest Collaborative members!

- The Capital Area Public Health Network
- We R H.O.P.E., Inc.
- Granite Pathways Youth Residential Treatment Center
- NH Afterschool Network

For more information or to become a member, contact Dellie Champagne at [dchampagne@new-futures.org](mailto:dchampagne@new-futures.org).

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