

Health Homes Serving Children are the primary source of care management services for children with serious emotional disturbance and mental health conditions, yet our program is not identified as a mental health program in any budget initiatives and is at risk of dissolution if the Health Home Restructuring cost savings is enacted. Health Homes Serving Children serve over 30,000 children and provide the care management services for the Children's Waiver and High Fidelity Wrap program. Without the services, many children and families would be left without the necessary community support to navigate this complex system of care we have in NYS, especially for those who cross-systems. DOH has stated there is no statutory language or policy change tied to the Health Home Restructuring cost savings which implies there is no plan to implement a cost savings of this magnitude and children's services are at risk. Without health homes serving children, other community based services such as CFTSS and HCBS are at risk of failure as they are already struggling to make the FFS model work with the Health Home care management rate. CPS cases will increase as schools and providers will have no other resource to rely on to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing in the home. Emergency department visits and unnecessary inpatient stays will be a result as families will have no reprieve and resort to higher levels of care to address escalating behaviors. Our question for the mental hygiene committee is if health homes are no longer available to children and families, then what is? Which service or program would be able to address the comprehensive needs that a health home care manager does today and how will the state essentially end services for thousands of children and families without anticipating the unintended consequences of this? Thank you.