Senate Bill 14 was signed into law on June 3, 2020. The provisions in the bill will help transform the way we serve children in NH who experience behavioral health needs. The new law strengthens the current system of care framework by expanding *RSA 135-F, System of Care for Children’s Mental Health.*

Here is a summary of the provisions in the new law:

1. It supports children and families by creating statewide access to mobile crisis response and stabilization services designed specifically for children and youth. Those receiving this service will have access within one hour of the initial call. The service can be provided in the home, school, or community.
2. It creates one or more Care Management Entities (CME) to oversee and coordinate the care for children with complex behavioral health needs who are at risk for residential, hospital, or corrections placement or involved in multiple service systems.
3. It creates an Information Clearinghouse. This information ‘’hub” would act as a single point of entry for families entering the system. The clearinghouse would advise families about evidence-based practices that are available.
4. It creates a System of Care Advisory Committee to support implementation of RSA 135-F. The committee began convening in July 2020 and meets every other month for three hours. Approximately 100 participants from the children’s behavioral health field attend the meetings.
5. It defines and then gradually increases the share of evidence-based children’s behavioral health services in the system. This will support readiness to receive The Family First Prevention Services Act federal dollars in 2021.
6. It adds a trauma-informed value/component to RSA 135-F. All individuals and organizations working with children and youth with behavioral health needs must develop an understanding of the impacts of trauma and toxic stress.
7. It establishes a resource center for families and providers to gain knowledge around trauma-informed and evidence-based practices.
8. It aligns court treatment decisions with System of Care principles, thereby improving treatment decisions and access to intensive care coordination. This includes ensuring the judicial system understands the overall services and supports that are available in the system.
9. It requires certain independent assessment, discharge, and outcome-oriented treatment and discharge planning for all out-of-home placements.
10. It improves oversight accountability in the system by requiring that contracts with service providers include provisions addressing outcome measurement, incentives for the use of evidence-based practices, accountability for high-quality services, and use of a uniform assessment instrument.
11. It establishes a procedure to assess court-involved children for eligibility for private and public medical insurance.
12. It requires that all available federal and private funding is maximized, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT) under the federal Medicaid Program.