

Children's Cabinet

December 13, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions (2 min)
- Vote on adoption of November meeting minutes (2 min)
- 2022 Highlights Presentation (40 min)
- Public Comment (10 min)
- Adjournment

RI Dept of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH)

2022 Highlights

1. This year, the **Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)** in partnership with the RI Dept of Education, **five virtual information sessions for students with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities transitioning to adulthood** were held, facilitated by DDD. These sessions provided opportunity for students and families to learn about the Eligibility and application process, the Supports Intensity Scale, and the differences between school-funded services and adult services. Students and families also interacted with representatives from 12 adult service agencies to gather information necessary to make informed choices about their post-school plans. Recordings of these sessions are posted on the Transition to Adult Services page of the [BHDDH website](#).
2. The **State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)**, an interagency workgroup, is funded by BHDDH through SAMHSA's Partnerships for Success (PFS) grant. They launched their own website this year which houses numerous articles, data briefs and statewide and community level behavioral health reports. PFS also funds the Rhode Island Young Adult Survey (RIYAS). This survey has yielded valuable information which has led to peer reviewed articles on such subjects as gambling, disparities in tobacco use, exposure to alcohol marketing, and telehealth. All reports and publications can be viewed at <https://seow.ri.gov>.
3. **The Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management** program in Rhode Island was a great success in its first year of implementation under the Regional Prevention Task Force initiative, funded by BHDDH. The [Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management program](#) (IYTCM) is an evidence-based prevention program designed to strengthen teacher classroom management strategies and promote children's prosocial behavior and school readiness (reading skills) for children ages 4 - 8. After the completion of the training in 2022, teachers across Rhode Island reported significant positive improvement in the four target domains: managing behavior problems, classroom strategies, classroom behavior, and an increase in engagement with parents.

Department of Children, Youth & Families

2022 Highlights

1. Received approval for the Family First Prevention Services Plan
2. Improved performance measures
 - 20% reduction in the number of children in out-of-home care
 - Reduction in child entry rates into the system and increase in child exit rates out of the system
 - Decline in reentry and repeat maltreatment rates
3. Selected as one of eight pilot sites to partner with the national Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency (QIC-EY)

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (RIDE)

2022 Highlights

1. Successfully launched and conducted the 14th RI Pre-K lottery offering 127 RI Pre-K state classrooms in 18 communities across the state, serving more than 2,300 four-year-old children. This year, Providence Public School's Young Woods Elementary School Pre-K also received a 5-star rating from quality rating and improvement agency BrightStars marking the first program in the district to receive the award.
2. Engaged students, families, and educators in an 18-month, community-centered process to reimagine and improve the high school experience and pass new statewide graduation requirements, culminating in the November 2022 approval of the most-commented set of regulations in Rhode Island K-12 education history. The updated regulations focus on graduating our students college and career-ready, increasing real-world relevant learning experiences by requiring proficiency in civics, financial literacy, computer science, and the arts, as well as recognizing work-based learning as academic credit.
3. Launched "Let It Out," a mental health campaign that addresses the needs of students by connecting them with trusted members of their school community and focused mental health services throughout Rhode Island. The "Let It Out" website showcases familiar faces in school communities that students can confide in and features classroom activities, educator toolkits, and other informational materials and resources to help students cope with mental health challenges. "Let It Out" builds upon goals of Project AWARE RI (Achieving Wellness and Resilience in Education).
4. Proposed a \$250 million statewide school construction bond included in the FY2023 budget and supported communities considering over \$1.1 billion in local school construction referendums, resulting in nearly \$1.3 billion in funds being approved by voters on November 8 to modernize and upgrade school buildings across the state.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (RIDE)

2022 Highlights

5. Launched the second round of School Building Authority's Facility Equity Initiative (FEI) with \$30 million in additional funding. FEI ensures that underserved school communities receive an equitable share of state school construction funding. The first round of funding in 2021 provided approximately \$13.4 million to support 26 projects for the districts of Central Falls, Woonsocket, Pawtucket, Providence, and West Warwick.
6. Established a \$15 million 21st Century Technology and Equipment Fund in October 2022, which will provide critical resources for districts to secure innovative technology and equipment that foster a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) project-based learning approach and career and technical education (CTE) pathways. Local education agencies are eligible for funding on a per-student basis, with a minimum award of \$25,000.
7. Launched a new \$5 million Art Reengages Talent in All Students (ARTS) initiative in May 2022 through which each public school district and charter school system will receive at least \$10,000 to support arts through the purchase of items such as musical instruments, auditorium upgrades, artists in residence, murals, sculptures, professional development, individual sponsorships, audio/visual or culinary equipment, and other investments that help provide high-quality arts education.
8. Convening the Civic Readiness Task Force through March 2023 to consider specific measures to enhance civics education in Rhode Island. The diverse coalition of stakeholders is expected to submit an initial report and recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department by March 31, 2023.

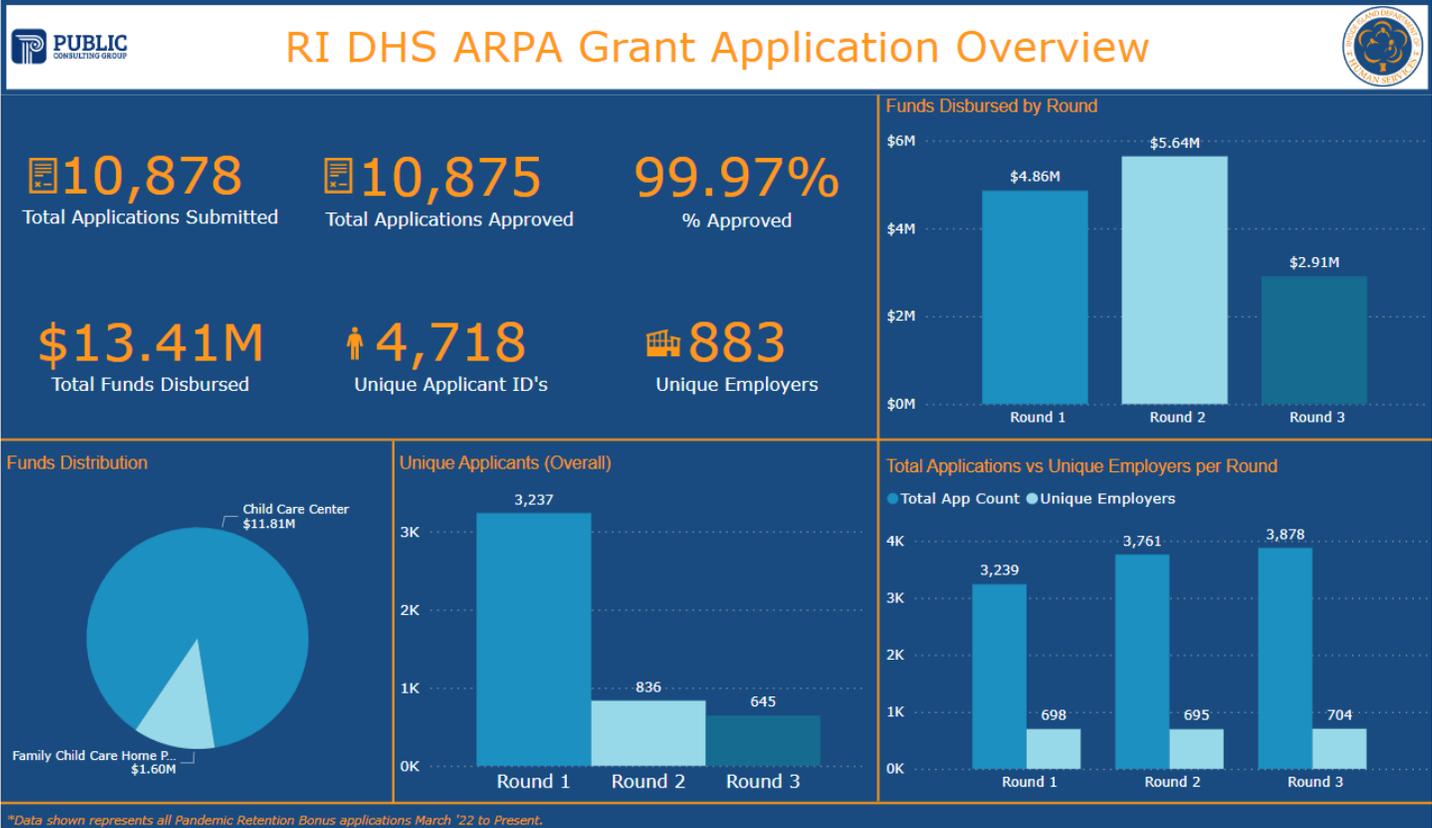
Department of Human Services

2022 Highlights

- **CCAP wins in the FY23 budget** - Center rates increased effective July 1, 2022, bringing one star up to the 60th percentile of the MRS, CCAP for College was made a permanent part of the CCAP program providing customers enrolled in a degree program at URI, RIC or CCRI with access to child care benefits and the financial entry point for CCAP increased from 180% FPL to 200% FPL and the exit point was raised from 225% to 300% FPL.
- Wave one of the **Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund** awarded \$8,662,598.00 to providers starting October 2022. This wave included 5 expansion projects and 10 Capital Improvement Projects. Improvements will be made to **701** child care slots: 44 infant slots, 104 toddler slots, 437 preschool slots and 116 school-age slots. Expansions and Improvements will create 460 **new** child care slots.
- The T.E.A.C.H Scholarship program awarded ninety-two (**102**) scholarships in 2022: thirty-eight (**38**) to Associate degree recipients; twenty-seven (**27**) to Bachelor recipients and thirty-seven (**37**) to CDA recipients.
- The LearnERS work for QRIS (job-embedded PD model developed by the authors of ERS to provide targeted technical assistance through various modalities), which launched in 2022, has successfully implemented six cohorts consisting of 58 early childhood educators from 33 different programs who are working to increase their quality rating, benefitting 312 CCAP children.

Department of Human Services

2022 Highlights - SFRF



- The Department has awarded over 10,000 bonuses to over 4,718 unique applicants, totaling over \$13.41 Million dollars in the first three windows of the Pandemic Retention Bonuses.
- In addition, we have awarded 47 FCC Start-up grants totaling \$94,000.
- We are in our final stages of awarding an RFP for our RISES (Rhode Island Start Early System) to begin creation and implementation of a workforce registry, among other data systems work.

Executive Office of Health and Human Services/Medicaid

2022 Highlights

1. Increasing Access to Healthcare

- Implemented “Cover All Kids,” which extends full-benefit medical assistance to children regardless of immigration status.
- Extended full benefit Medicaid coverage 12-months postpartum, including those who are undocumented
- Implemented FY22 SDOH budget initiatives, incl. coverage for perinatal doula services and for community health workers.

2. Investing in Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Overseeing allocation of \$20 million in Opioid Settlement SFY23 funding for opioid mitigation
- Implementing RI Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) Infrastructure Grants and planning for new FY24 CCBHC rate, with BHDDH and DCYF
- Kicked off Mobile Response and Stabilization Services program for children and youth, to provide mobile behavioral health crisis services for Rhode Island families

3. Investing in our workforce

- Provided critical funds for workforce recruitment for Early Intervention providers (\$5.5M, pediatric healthcare providers (\$7.5M), and home and community-based service providers (including children behavioral health agencies) to recruit, retain, and support direct care workers
- Invested \$3M to begin the Health Professional Equity Initiative, which is providing free tuition and additional academic, social, and financial supports for approximately 140 paraprofessionals to pursue higher education degrees and health professional licenses, to address shortages and the lack of cultural, linguistic, and racial diversity in the health professional workforce
- Launched a statewide public-private health workforce planning process with Dept. Of Labor & Training, and Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner

RI Department of Health

2022 Highlights

- 1. Access to Medicaid Funding for Family Home Visiting:** In 2023, Healthy Families America and Nurse-Family Partnership will begin to access Medicaid funding. RI is one of the first states to be able to access this resource.
- 2. Community Health Workers (CHWs):** RIDOH received a \$5M grant to train, engage, deploy, and evaluate CHWs throughout RI. There are currently 32 CHWs in Health Equity Zones (HEZs) and other community-based organizations who can assist community members impacted by systemic inequities and help address structural barriers to health. CHWs focus on supporting families to understand and engage in services available in their communities.
- 3. Dental Care:** RI adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates were increased to align with MA rates for the first time in 30 years, effective July 2022. This is not directly tied to children; however, if parents have better healthcare, then their children do as well.
- 4. Adolescent Health:** The Adolescent Health Program was awarded an HHS Office of Minority Health grant for "RI Effective Policies for Black Youth Mental Health." The 3-year project (9/30/22 - 9/29/25) will conduct a comprehensive assessment of cross-sectoral policies impacting Black youth mental health (BYMH) to propose policy interventions. The project will center community engagement and collaborate with existing initiatives to address youth mental health, particularly for BIPOC communities.
- 5. Behavioral Health:** RISAS continues to train school personnel and support staff on Question, Persuade and Refer to recognize the warning signs of suicidal ideation and refer at-risk middle and high school students to Bradley Hospital.

Public Comment