

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES

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OVERVIEW OF CIS SERVICES

- Unique to Vermont, **Children's Integrated Services (CIS)** is a noteworthy innovation in the delivery of evidence-based, informed and integrated services to families with young children.
- It is a model that requires CIS providers not simply to cooperate or collaborate, but to **integrate the care** they provide families.
- Prior to the implementation of CIS, Vermont families found themselves burdened by multiple home visitors, multiple appointments and multiple, sometimes contradictory, plans of care. Regions did not have integrated data across the system of early childhood services to make informed decisions around priorities and funding.
- <https://youtu.be/9GIL9iVyZRM>

CIS OFFERS 4 CORE SERVICES TO FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN FACING CHALLENGES



CIS OVERVIEW: SYSTEM STRUCTURES

- **CIS State Team:** Staff in Waterbury provide program oversight and support
- **Fiscal Agent Contractor:** A single agency in each region holds the CIS contract
- **Regional CIS Admin Team:** A coalition of providers and partners governs regional CIS system and ensures service delivery
- **Local CIS Coordinators:** An individual in each region coordinates partners, reporting, etc.
- **Regional Intake & Referral Team:** Weekly meetings triage referrals and collaborate

OVERVIEW OF CIS SERVICES

- The **prevention and early intervention services** that compose CIS have immediate and long-term benefits. CIS focuses on whole families and support's children's social, emotional and cognitive development; family preservation, stability and unification; and supports parents' contribution to Vermont's workforce.
- CIS services enhance and improve outcomes of complementary services such as DCF Family and Economic Services.
- In an era of concern over the per-student costs of K-12 education, CIS supports children before they reach the school system, providing effective interventions for developmental issues that are more costly to address as children grow

VALUE AND PURPOSE OF THE CIS MODEL

- The upstream services provided by the CIS system utilize a multi-generational approach for maximum impact
- Research demonstrates that quality interventions and supports for children ages 0-5 have among the highest return on investment across human services- 13% ROI for high-quality birth-5 programs
- CIS uses multiple evidence-based practices with proven effectiveness in impacting outcomes in health, child maltreatment prevention, education, and economic well-being
- Services help to mitigate ACES and intergenerational trauma

WHY IS INTEGRATION IMPORTANT

- Ease of service access for families
- Ease of referral for other providers such as pediatrics who most frequently interface with all young children and families
- Integrated plans of care that reduce duplication and contradictory services for families
- Availability of regional data across the system of care
- Integrated funding for direct services
- Regional decision making on funding priorities and allocations

CIS FUNDING: BUNDLED RATE METHODOLOGY

- Prior to payment reform, each regional CIS contract total was based on historical spending among services providers
- Regional case rates were determined by contract total and a set monthly client count and monthly case rates range from \$498 to \$854, with a mean of \$676 across the regions
- CIS bundled payment methodology was designed to allow regional Admin teams allocate funding between services based on locally-determined methodology, community need, and provider capacity
- Reimbursement for bundled services from the State may not exceed contract total

CIS FUNDING CHALLENGES

- In 2021 CIS received its first increase in funding since it started in 2009. However, the demand and actual costs to the 12 regional non-profit agencies that provide services have steadily increased.
- There is a critical lack of capacity to serve children and families that struggle with multiple risk factors including increased child welfare involvement, exposure to parental opiate use, poverty, homelessness, and autism prevalence.
- CIS also lacks a common data system, meaning both state agencies and providers lack the ability to compare outcomes, track client progress, identify improvements and efficiencies, and make real-time changes to their service plans as needed.

CIS FUNDING: RESULTS OF RESOURCE CHALLENGES



Delayed Services: Timeliness indicators suffering, impacting federal compliance



Inadequate Capacity: Resources cannot keep up with increasing population need



Staffing Shortages: Significant challenges in staff recruitment and retention, low wages cited
64% of CIS staff have been with CIS for 5 years or less, up from 50% in 2016

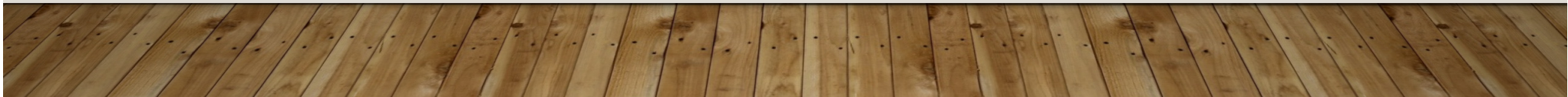


Crisis-Driven: Reactive by necessity at a system level

2018 PAYMENT REFORM & 2021 CASE RATE INCREASE

- In 2018 the Child Development Division (CDD) of the Department for Children and Families paid consultants to study CIS reimbursement rates and make recommendations.

 - The study revealed that **the rate being offered under the current contract, \$512 Per Client per Month , did not cover the cost of providing services which is \$634 per client per month.**
- In 2020 Payment reform was initiated, resulting in consistent rates across the state at \$517. Some regions experienced a loss, while some were increased depending on the previous regional allocation.
- In 2021 CIS received its first increase in funding since it started in 2009, bringing the statewide case rate to \$600 per month.
- Another increase happened in 2022, raising the case rate to \$650 per member per month.

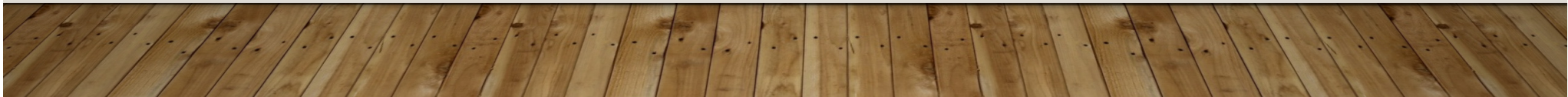
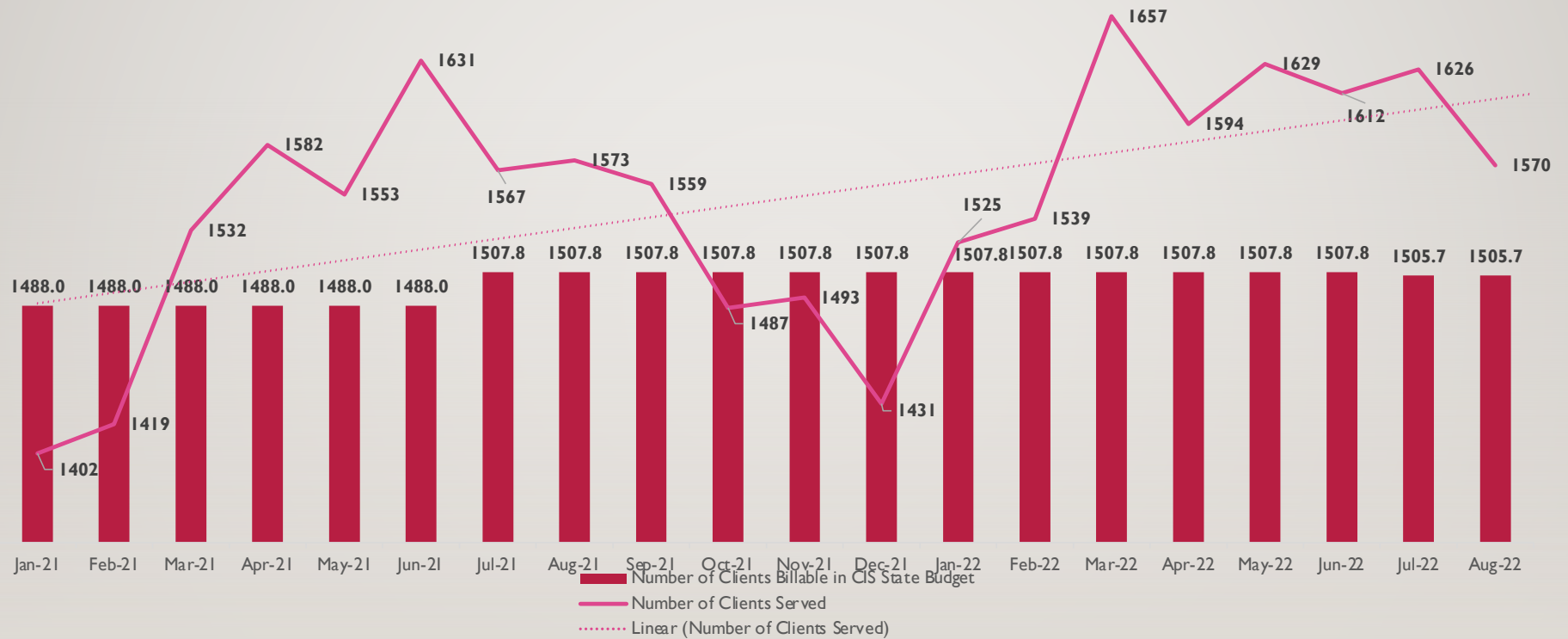


THE ASK

- Continued advocacy for investment in CIS as caseloads rise

- The FY' 24 Governor's Budget includes a CIS funding increase of \$950,000
- Details around how this funding would be distributed are still unclear, over the last two years there has been case rate increases vs this proposed increased in total funding.
- Challenges exist around billing and reimbursement based on regional factors such as staff vacancies and numbers of clients being served compared to contract.
- Investment in a CIS data system, \$1.88 million over 3 years
 - CIS Fiscal agents across the state have agreed to use the proposed client database system built on the Salesforce platform that the Family Center of Washington County has developed and is currently using.

The Total Number of CIS Clients Served Monthly Between January 2021 and August 2022 Compared to the Maximum Number of Clients Supported By The CIS State Budget



WHAT'S NEXT

- **The Governor's Recommended FY24 Budget includes an increase of \$950,000 for CIS compared to FY23.**
 - Identify how this would be allocated, for instance as an increased case rate, increased contract amount, or a mix of both. Ideally it would be a mix.
- **Advocacy also continues in support of the request for \$1.88 million over 3 years, \$768,000 in the first year, for the development of a system-wide CIS data system.**
- **Talking to your reps: What is your local CIS story?**