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**Program for Assertive
Community Treatment for Youth
(PACT-Y)**

April 2024

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH**

I. Introduction

Line Item 5042-5000 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023, the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, requires the Department of Mental Health (DMH), to submit a report regarding the Program of Assertive Community Treatment for Youth (PACT-Y) to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the: (I) funds distributed through the program, delineated by recipient; (II) number of new programs created with said funds, delineated by recipient, location, number of individuals served and ages of individuals served; and (III) projected need for the creation of new programs in the next fiscal year.

PACT-Y is a comprehensive service for individuals under the age of 22 with serious emotional disturbance for whom traditional office and/or community-based services and interventions have not been helpful. It is an intensive and coordinated service that is provided by one integrated, multi-disciplinary, community-based team. The service is designed specifically for Youth with the most challenging and persistent mental and behavioral health needs who are able to live in the community with these supports.

Currently, there are seven contracted PACT-Y teams across the state. Five of the contracts started in December 2022 with two others starting at later dates: one in April 2023 and another in October 2023. Due to the current workforce shortage crisis, start-up has been very gradual and therefore enrollments in the programs are still ramping up. Because this was anticipated, contracts began as cost reimbursement in order to support a successful implementation. As program enrollments hit full capacity (20 slots for each contract) and remain stable, the contracts will move to the daily unit rate developed under the rate regulation (101 CMR 430).

PACT-Y is modeled after an evidence based adult service (Program for Assertive Community Treatment or PACT) and, along with one other state, New York, this is first time that the model is being used for youth. Because of this, there is much to learn about the best match of youth referred and typical length of stay. Without this information, it is premature to predict the need for additional teams.

Early indications show success with youth discharged resulting in positive outcomes 90% of the time. And positive feedback from families:

“I’m blown away. I’ve been asking for services like this for years and it’s been really positive so far.”

“We are very grateful and I’m actually feeling a little hopeful.”

At present, PACT-Y receives funding from both state appropriation and one-time ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) allocations. For the upcoming year, the projection includes \$4.5 million from state line item 5042-5000, with \$1.7 million remaining in ARPA earmarked funding ().

**I. Funds Distributed through the Program - reporting period December 1, 2022
- November 30, 2023**

DMH PACT-Y Programs		
DMH Area	PACT-Y Provider	Total Expenditure
Contract Started December 2022		
Western MA	Clinical and Support Options (CSO)	\$580,768
Central MA Metrowest	Wayside Youth and Family	\$972,443
Northeast	Wayside Youth and Family	\$1,028,421
Southeast	Community Counseling of Bristol County (CCBC)	\$600,864
Metro Boston	Home for Little Wanderers (HLW)	\$710,373
Contract Started April 2023		
Central MA Greater Worcester	Wayside Youth and Family	\$475,736
Contract Started October 2023		
Western MA – Berkshires	Clinical and Support Options (CSO)	\$36,603
	Total	\$4,405,207

II. Individuals Served – reporting period December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2023

DMH PACT-Y Programs				
DMH Area	PACT-Y Provider	Month Enrollments Started	Slot Capacity when fully staffed	Individuals Served
Contract Started December 2022				
Western MA	Clinical and Support Options (CSO)	February 2023	20	15
Central MA Metrowest	Wayside Youth and Family	March 2023	20	12
Northeast	Wayside Youth and Family	June 2023	20	11
Southeast	Community Counseling of Bristol County (CCBC)	May 2023	20	11
Metro Boston	Home for Little Wanderers (HLW)	April 2023	20	10
Contract Started April 2023				
Central MA Greater Worcester	Wayside Youth and Family	September 2023	20	5
Contract Started October 2023				
Western MA – Berkshires	Clinical and Support Options (CSO)	February 2024	20	0
	Total		140	64

III. Ages of Individuals Served – reporting period December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2023

DMH PACT-Y Youth Served - Ages	
Age Group	# Youth Served
10-14	15
15-17	33
18-21	16
Total	64

IV. Program Utilization Trends

