



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Mental Health
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JOAN MIKULA
Commissioner

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March 31, 2016

Honorable Charlie D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth
Honorable Maria Mossaides, Child Advocate
Honorable William F. Welch, Senate Clerk
Honorable Steven T. James, House Clerk
Honorable Jennifer Flanagan, Senate Chair, Joint Committees on Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
Honorable Elizabeth A. Malia, House Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Honorable Kay Khan, House Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
Honorable James Welch, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
Honorable Karen E. Spilka, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Honorable Brian S. Dempsey, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

On behalf of the Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center, established under the provisions of Chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008, I am pleased to submit its 2015 Annual Report.

The mission of the Children's Behavioral Health (CBH) Knowledge Center is to ensure that:

- The workforce of clinicians and direct care staff providing children's behavioral health services are highly skilled and well-trained;
- The services provided to children in the Commonwealth are cost-effective and evidence-based; and
- The Commonwealth continues to develop and evaluate new models of service delivery.

The Knowledge Center fills a gap in the children's behavioral health system by serving as an information hub, through its Annual Symposium, website, workshops, and webinars. As an intermediary organization, the Center's activities facilitate connection among the rich array of children's behavioral health researchers, program developers, providers, practitioners, and consumer advocates in Massachusetts. The Center generally focuses on the application of research knowledge, not the production of it.

The Center's design and agenda have been guided by conversations with state agency leaders, researchers, service providers, consumer advocates, the Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Council, and stakeholders throughout Massachusetts. In its inaugural year, the Center has deliberately focused on establishing partnerships across child-serving systems particularly with MassHealth and the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative. Development of these partnerships is critical to the success of the Center given its purview is the entire children's behavioral health system, across Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) agencies and public and private payers. As you will see in the enclosed report, the Center has supported a variety of projects that cut-across service systems to support the development of practices, programs, and service delivery models that are based on the best available evidence about what works to improve outcomes for young people.

Sincerely,



Joan Mikula
Commissioner

On behalf of the Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center

cc: Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Council