

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Child and Family Services  
11 State House Station  
2 Anthony Avenue  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 624-5553

April 6, 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

LD 1059 – An Act To Provide Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Adolescents

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter is to provide you with information about as you consider LD 1059, An Act To Provide Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Adolescents. Currently this bill is only a concept draft, although the summary indicates the intent is to direct the Department to develop and fund a continuum of evidence-based treatment services for youth with substance use disorder.

OCFS recognizes the impact of substance use disorder (SUD) on youth in our State and is dedicating time and resources to addressing concerns and expanding treatment options for youth. This includes hiring a Youth SUD Coordinator within our office and applying for two Federal grants related to youth SUD.

In February we applied for the Youth and Family Tree Grant, a \$2.6 million SAMHSA grant. Our proposal would establish 3 evidence-based, developmentally appropriate treatment teams for youth with SUD by incorporating the Adolescent-Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) with in the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model. Funding would also be used to create a position within DHHS. That staff person would be A-CRA certified and work to expand the practice beyond the initial three sites.

This month we will be applying for the Mentoring for Youth affected by the Opioid Crisis and Drug Addiction Grant, a \$1.2 million DOJ grant. Our proposal calls for establishment of a statewide evidence-based mentoring program for youth with opioid use disorder (OUD) and SUD, or who have a relative with OUD or SUD. Our proposal places specific emphasis on working with youth experiencing homelessness and those involved with DOC and/or child welfare.

Over the last few years OCFS has also been working collaboratively with stakeholders, many of whom you heard from at the public hearing, to improve Maine's response to SUD among youth. OCFS would respectfully request that this bill be carried over to next session to give OCFS additional time to work both internally and with stakeholders to address the treatment needs of Maine's youth and identify if legislation is necessary to meet these needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd A. Landry".

Dr. Todd A. Landry  
Director, Office of Child and Family Services