Comments on Children’s Mental Health Services

Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the 21st Century

May 22, 2019
Margaret Nimmo Holland, Voices for Virginia’s Children
• Child population has grown from 1,520,670 in 1990 to 1,869,176 in 2017
• Increase of 22%
• Most of this increase is from minority populations such as Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations

Hispanic and Asians are leading the pack in the shifting child population since 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>American Indian/Alaska Native</th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change 1990-2017</td>
<td>↑446</td>
<td>↑218</td>
<td>↑56</td>
<td>↑20</td>
<td>↓3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Percent change from 1990 to 2017
Who are Virginia’s children?

1990:
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 23%
- African American: 3%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 3%
- Hispanic: 3%
- White: 71%

2017:
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 22%
- African American: 14%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 8%
- Hispanic: 56%
- White: 3%
Considerations for Policy Change

1. How does this policy change affect children? Does it affect different groups of children differently?

2. Are the experts in the room contributing to the decision-making? Families and youth, service providers and administrators of services to children, etc.

3. What is our priority as we roll out policy changes? What are we funding first?

4. Do we have the workforce to treat children? Are we prioritizing the pipeline for children’s services? Are the providers going to look like those they serve?
Considerations for Policy Change

5. How are the policy changes connected across systems? What will it look like for the family/child?

6. How are we holding publicly-funded systems accountable for the policy changes we are making? Are we collecting data and is it disaggregated? What outcomes are we trying to achieve?