



Youth  
Providers  
Association, Inc.

## Youth Providers Association, Inc.

Contracted Providers with Division of Children and Family Services &  
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

### Summary of Issues

#### Who are the Youth Providers?

- Private companies employing over 2,000 people in Utah. Many of these small businesses are completely reliant upon their contracts with Department of Human Services to remain in business.
- The children we serve cannot be left to be taken care of by their families because they are either in danger themselves or a danger to others. This means that in choosing care for them, there are two options:
  - Therapeutic care by private providers, where they receive the children receive help and services they need, at a fraction of the cost from state providers, which is also offset by Federal Medicaid dollars.
  - Correctional system where the children don't receive essential therapeutic services and without the financial resources of Medicaid.
- Backbone of services to children and youth in custody of the State of Utah with abuse-related trauma challenges, mental health problems, behavioral problems, substance abuse, and youth who have sexual offended.
- Operate hundreds of programs in all areas of our state, including specialized Intensive Residential Treatment settings, Professional Parenting, Proctor Care (Treatment Foster Care), Counseling/Psychotherapy, Psychiatric Evaluation and Medication Management.

Youth providers are extremely effective and efficient, preventing hospitalizations and institutional placement, and saving the State hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

#### Current Issues

- While Youth Providers have worked hard to become more efficient in the recent economic climate, years of cuts and increasing costs are creating significant pressure on these organizations.
  - **DCFS/DJJS Youth Providers receive 25% less for a therapy hour compared to State Medicaid providers.**
  - Youth Providers face increasing expenses with the implementation of a new Diagnostic Manual and billing requirements this year.
- A number of significant providers have stopped serving or are considering reductions in the number of Youth in State's Custody who they serve, due to the increasingly unmet costs of caring for these children.
- Youth Provider contracts with Department of Human Services continue to increase the administrative and training expectations on programs and improving client outcomes without additional funding to support these changes.

#### Youth Providers are Requesting

Department of Human Services (DCFS and DJJS) Medicaid rates be returned to the full Department of Health rates. This translates to an additional for \$686,500 DCFS and \$250,000 for DJJS, in total \$936,500.

As outlined in Provider contracts, the typical operating cost break-down allocates \$702,375 (75%) to cover staff and therapist wages and benefits and the remaining \$234,125 (25%) will be applied to the cost of Evidence Based Practice implementation and client program enrichment. Due to the multiple private businesses that constitute the Youth Provider Association, a more definitive budget proposal is unavailable.