

## Invest \$100 Million in The Children's System of Care Continuum

Prioritizing the critical role of community health promotion, prevention, and early intervention to grow healthy, resilient children

## **Problem to Solve**

Social determinants\* of health are responsible for the majority of health outcomes, yet population based prevention is only 4% of the total health care budget.\*\*

If we do not invest in prevention and early intervention, we will continue to deal with negative consequences and bad behavioral health outcomes, leading to poor quality of life and early death.

- \* Social Determinants include housing, education, employment, income, family and social supports, community safety, and environment.
- \*\* Centers for Disease Control, American Public Health Association

## **Solutions and Recommended Investment**

In order to decrease costs associated with disproportionate acute and crisis level responses, we'll need to bolster prevention and early intervention strategies across the developmental stages by investing in Prevention and Early Intervention programs:

Improvement of school-based initiatives to support children living in toxic stress, such as:

- Universal mental health screenings; assessment and referral to school services staff to do targeted intervention for coping skills and building resilience
- · Family check up
- Good Behavior Game
- Statewide Threat Assessment and Suicide Prevention

Community wide initiatives, such as:

- Suicide prevention
- · Parent management training
- Triple P Positive Parenting Program
- Positive Parent-Child interactions
- Home visitation programs
- Nurse Family partnerships
- Early Assessment Support Alliance
- Long term tracking of mental health and substance use disorders and prevention/health promotion program metrics, including cost data, to create a system for monitoring population health and reporting to Legislature
- Respite and other higher level services to prevent separation of families, and reserving institutional placements for the very few who need them

## **Desired Outcomes**

- → Achieving the "biggest bang for the buck" and gaining return on investment by saving money on health care in the long run.
- → Individuals and families change health behavior choices that negatively impact their well being and strengthen their ability to cope with adversity.
- → Delivery system is able to improve families' success and decrease reliance on expensive services.
- → Individuals, families and communities have culturally sensitive social networks of support.

