



West Virginia  
**KidsThrive**  
Collaborative

When kids and families thrive, West Virginia thrives.

# Quarterly Meeting

June 26, 2025



# Kids Thrive Collaborative Agenda

1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
2. DOJ Update



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ

- **What is it?**

- In May 2019, the State and DOJ signed an Agreement describing how the State would reform its child welfare system to help ensure children receive the appropriate services in the least restrictive settings to meet their mental health needs
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and not a court decree



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **Why does the Agreement exist?**
  - In April 2014, DOJ investigated the State's system of care for children with serious mental health conditions
  - In June 2015, a [Findings Letter](#) from the DOJ reported the State did not comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by failing to provide services to children with significant mental health conditions in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs





# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **What are the key elements of the Agreement?**
  - Services to be provided to a target population including all children under age 21 who:
    - Have a serious emotional disorder that results in a functional impairment and who are placed or may be placed in a residential mental health treatment facility; and
    - Meet requirements for mental health services to be provided or paid for by DoHS



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **What are the key elements of the Agreement (continued)?**
  - DoHS shall ensure timely statewide access to home- and community-based services (HCBS), including:
    - Wraparound Facilitation
    - Behavioral Support Services
    - Children's Mobile Crisis Response
    - Therapeutic Foster Care
    - Assertive Community Treatment



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **How has the State made changes?**
  - For the past six years, DoHS led significant progress in reforming the State's system of care for children with mental health needs in West Virginia by implementing and offering home- and community-based services (HCBS) statewide, in a timely manner, and in sustainable ways



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **Highlights include:**

- The Children with Serious Emotional Disorder (CSED) Waiver services began in 2020
- An Assessment Pathway was implemented in 2021 to screen and assess children, especially with serious emotional disorders
- A Qualified Independent Assessment (QIA) process was implemented statewide in 2023 to help ensure children receive service in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs





# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **Highlights include (continued):**
  - Implementing and expanding Children's Crisis and Referral Line (CCRL) and Children's Mobile Crisis Response and Stabilization (CMCRS) services in 2020
  - Ongoing expansion of HCBS and revising state plans, as needed



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **Highlights include (continued):**
  - Developing the Office of Quality Assurance for Children's Programs (OQA) to grow a comprehensive continuous quality improvement (CQI) system
  - Publishing an annual [Children's Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services Quality and Outcome Report](#)



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **Highlights include (continued):**
  - West Virginia University (WVU) conducts a comprehensive [Children's Mental Health Evaluation](#)
  - Marshall University conducts an [annual fidelity review](#) of West Virginia Wraparound
  - A mental health screening component was added to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)



# 1. Historical Overview of the State's Agreement with the DOJ, continued

- **As a result:**

- In December 2024, the Agreement was mutually modified (i.e., reduced) by the State and DOJ
- DoHS will publish a semiannual Agreement Review, in January and July, to describe the State's efforts to satisfy the modified Agreement
- First semiannual Agreement Review to be published on or before July 31, 2025







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# DOJ Update





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**Thank you!**

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