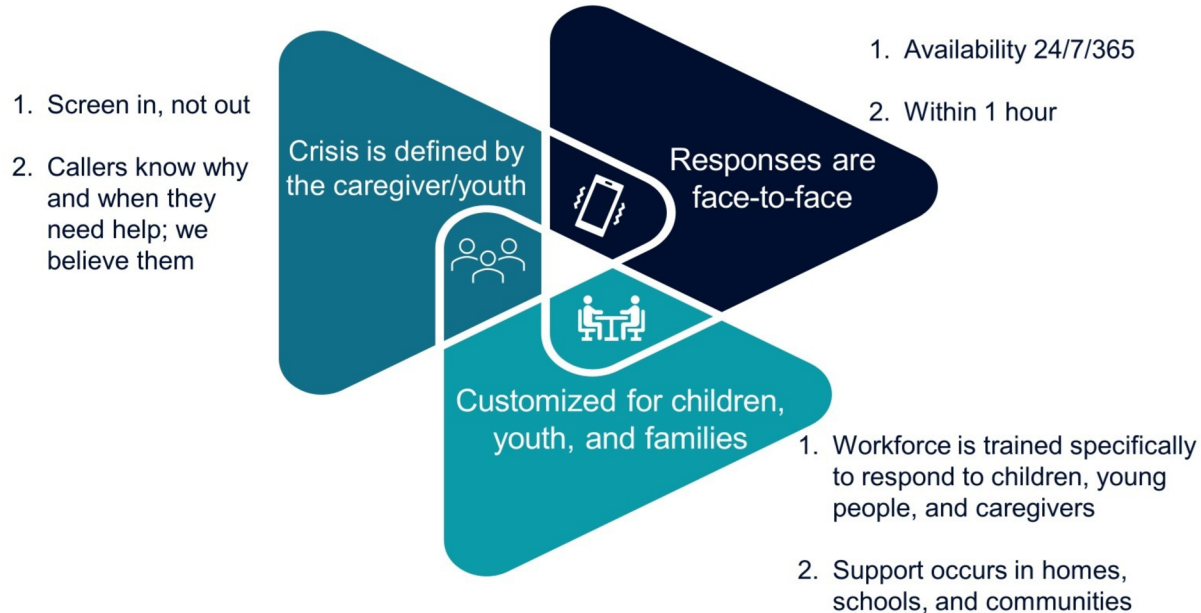


COMMERCIAL INSURANCE COVERAGE OF YOUTH MOBILE RESPONSE & STABILIZATION SERVICES H6118/S0263

WHAT ARE MOBILE RESPONSE & STABILIZATION SERVICES (MRSS)?

A cornerstone of an effective children's behavioral health system. MRSS provides **face-to-face intervention, crisis de-escalation, assessment of needs,** and **safety planning** to families with **children in crisis ages 2-21 upon request 24/7/365**. In addition, **stabilization services** and connections to additional supports and resources occur for up to **six to eight weeks**.

MRSS Basics



MRSS BENEFITS

- Immediate **risk assessment** (e.g., suicide, self-harm, or harm to others).
- Diverts individuals from **emergency departments** and **law enforcement involvement**.
- **Crisis de-escalation** within the family and community context.
- Prevents **unnecessary hospitalizations** or **out-of-home placements** for children.



Includes family-related conflicts, school-related pressures, or trauma events requiring immediate support.

Includes suicidal ideation, psychosis, or acute behavioral disturbances impacting public safety or personal well-being.

"Children in crisis need timely and tailored support that addresses not only the immediate situation but also the underlying causes."

WHAT WOULD H6118/S0263 DO?

(Sponsors Rep Tanzi/Sen. DiMario)

Require that commercial insurers cover MRSS services, an emergency, community-based mental health service for children/youth and their families

WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

- **MRSS works!** and is the gold standard for crisis services for children & youth - *From Nov. 2022- Feb 2024, 92% of children referred to MRSS were deferred from Emergency Depts. and stabilized.*
- MRSS is a **critical part of the state's crisis system for children** and **needs a reliable and sustainable source of funding**, both now and into the future.
- MRSS is **primarily reimbursed through Medicaid** as a subcontracted service of the local community mental health centers (CCBHCs). CCBHCs are funded through a federal time-limited grant; Blue Cross Blue Shield RI is the only insurer in RI that covers MRSS.
- **All RI children & youth should have access to MRSS when in crisis** - this bill helps make that happen by providing a needed funding stream to support MRSS.



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