

# RIGHT HELP. RIGHT NOW.

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Transforming Behavioral Health Care for Virginians

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State Executive Council

June 13, 2024



Governor Youngkin's multifaceted approach to youth mental health and wellbeing involves three main initiatives.



## The *Right Help, Right Now* Plan is founded on six pillars

**An aligned approach to BH** that provides access to **timely, effective, and community-based care** to reduce the burden of mental health needs, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders on Virginians and their families

**1: We must strive to ensure same-day care for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises**

**2: We must relieve the law enforcement communities' burden while providing care and reduce the criminalization of behavioral health**

**3: We must develop more capacity** throughout the system, going beyond hospitals, especially to enhance community-based services

**4: We must provide targeted support for substance use disorder (SUD)** and efforts to prevent overdose

**5: We must make the behavioral health workforce a priority,** particularly in underserved communities

**6: We must identify service innovations and best practices** in pre-crisis prevention services, crisis care, post-crisis recovery and support and develop tangible and achievable means to close capacity gaps

# *Right Help. Right Now.*

Overarching umbrella for the collective work to transform the Behavioral Health System of the Commonwealth

## Governor's Task Forces – High Priority, High Impact, Short Term

**Safe and Sound**  
April 2022

### Workstreams 1-6 – High Priority, Low to High Impact, Short, Medium, and Long Term

Prioritizes the Medium-Long Term Needs Identified by the Task Force

Reports back to the Task Force to ensure follow through

# RHRN Youth Mental Health Focus Areas

- Comprehensive Crisis
- Substance use disorder treatment
- Expanding High Quality Services and Supports, *including school based mental health*
- **Mental health needs of youth in foster care**
- Mental health literacy for youth and families
- Impact of social media
- Prevention and building resilience
- Youth mental health workforce



# Safe and Sound Objectives

1

*Phase 1:* End the problem of youth in care sleeping in local department of social services offices, hotels, or other unsuitable locations

2

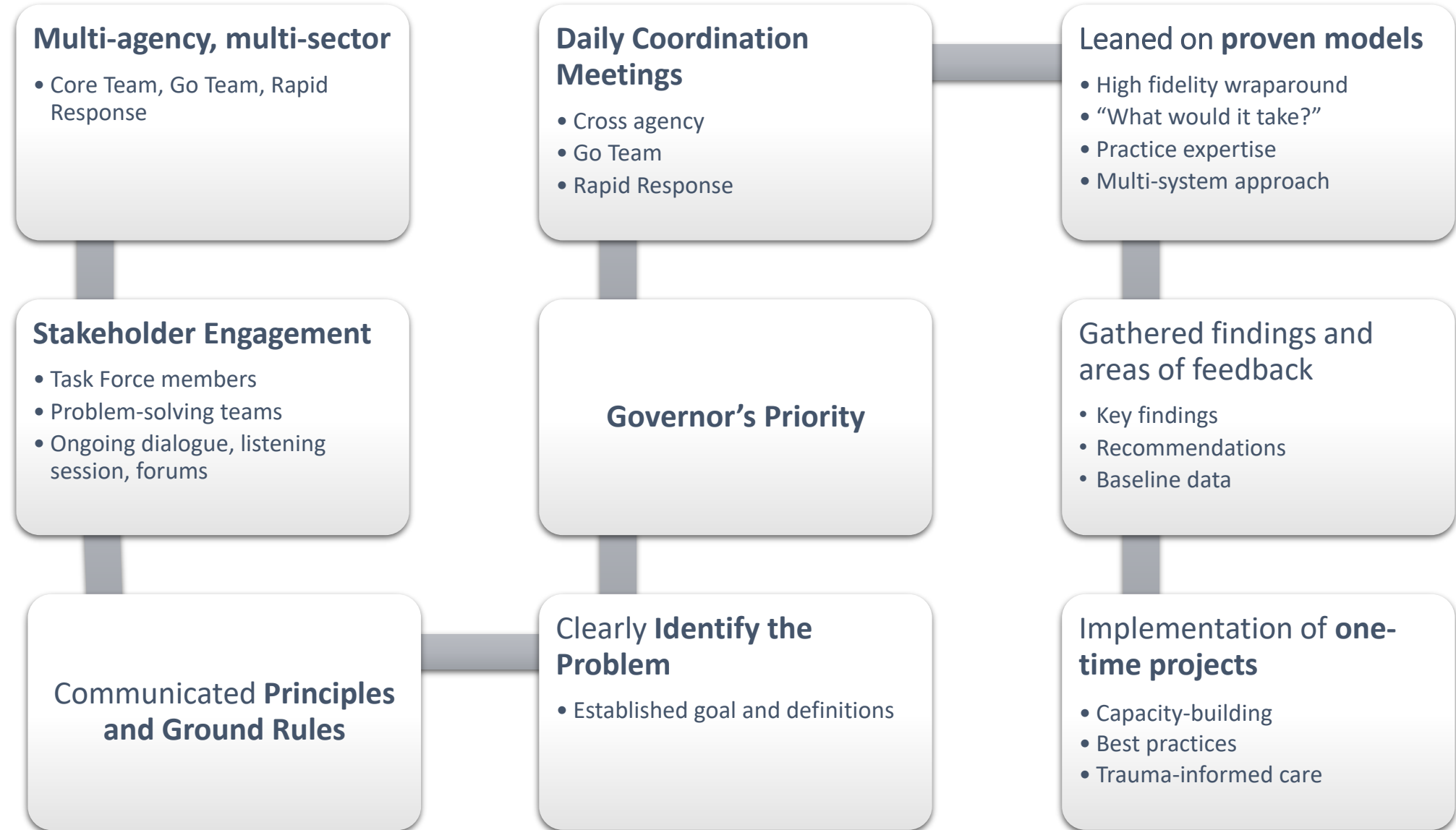
*Phase 2:* Develop a “reservoir” of safe and appropriate placements for youth who may need them in the future, particularly expanding capacity for kinship and relative placements.

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*Phase 3:* Propose and execute policy and system reforms

# Approach

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# Root Causes

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Lack of support for relatives and fictive kin who step up to care for children

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Lack of capacity to place children who enter care with relative foster parents

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Gaps across the continuum of care (e.g. mental health services, specialty services, certain levels of care)

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System siloing and poor coordination; process and organizational complexity

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Workforce challenges

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Fragmented financing (e.g. multiple Medicaid plans, kids in foster care spread across plans)

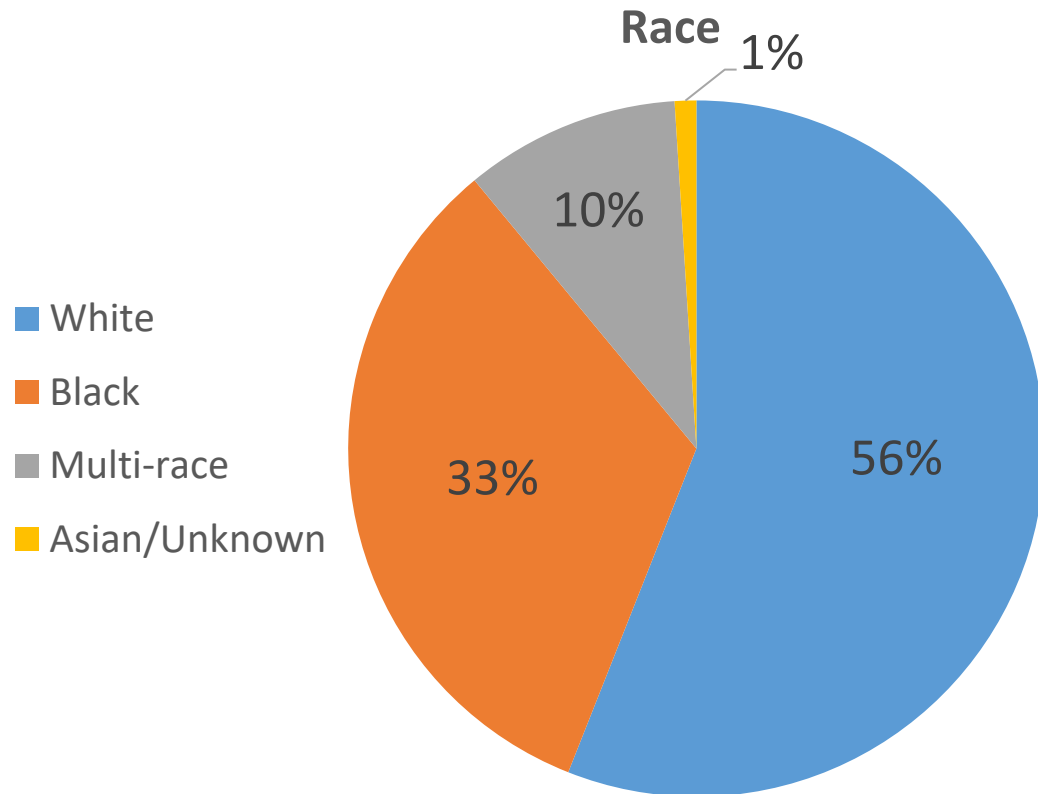




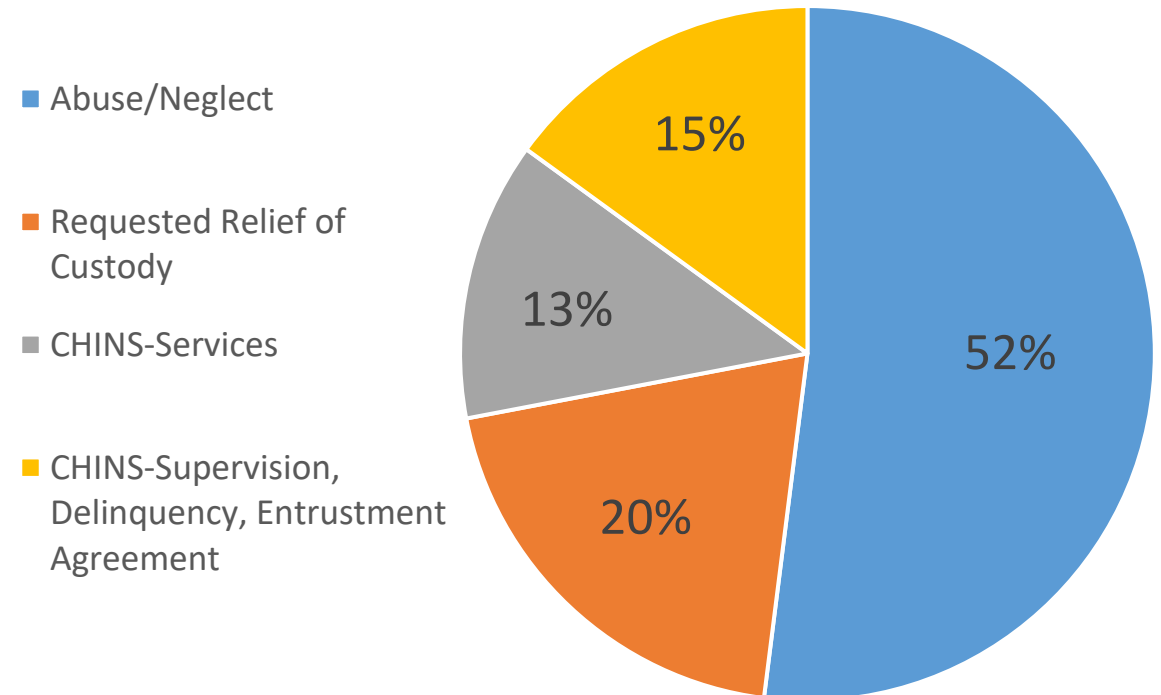
# Safe and Sound Demographics

## Unmet needs and causes for lack of appropriate level of care and displacement

- Aggressive behavior
- Low IQ (<70)/Developmental Disorder
- Juvenile justice involvement
- Prolonged inpatient hospitalization
- Recent emergency room visit for medical or behavioral health issue
- Barrier to step-down or return to previous placement
- Chronic medical condition
- Trauma, grief/loss
- Length of time in foster care



## Legal Basis for Foster Care Entry



### Meeting Urgent, Unmet Needs

- Exceptional Circumstances Pilot
- Enhanced Treatment Foster Care
- Sponsored Residential Providers
- Placement Support Specialists (3)
- CCCA Liaison
- Go Team
- Rapid Response
- Local Tools

### Addressing Underlying Causes Longer Term

- *Right Help, Right Now*
- Legislative and Budget
- Cross-Agency Collaboration
- Best Practices
- Medicaid Services
- Foster Care Specialty Plan
- Sustainability



# Years 2-3



# Governor's Priorities from the Task Force

Single MCO for foster care youth (RHRN)

- NOIA to Anthem/Elevance

Prevention and building resilience (Safe and Sound)

- Kinship First Legislation



# Looking Ahead



Youth behavioral health redesign



Focus on Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) quality and services



Safe and Sound  
Task Force

- Go Teams sustainability
- Continued high-level, long term strategic planning



Continued need for local engagement, collaboration and coordination

