

Developmental Disabilities Crisis System Improvement Project - Legislative Report Highlights

In 2020, the DD Crisis System Improvement Project (formally the SWITC Project) was developed to implement a new treatment model for individuals with intellectual disabilities and complex needs.

Key Achievements from 2021

- Changed project name to better align with the philosophy of the crisis system changes
- Conducted outreach to other states and identified best-practice approaches
- Implemented a Communication Plan that prioritizes two-way communication
- Completed an architectural study that discussed the feasibility of building new care settings on the SWITC campus
- Drafted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that will be used to initiate conversations with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a new funding authority
- Selected, researched and prepared for initial implementation of key design elements
- Submitted, and received approval for enhanced federal funding at a 90/10 match rate for all work associated with the policy and system design

Highlights of the New Service Delivery Strategy

- SWITC, as it currently operates, will be phased out over the next several years
- Two small care settings; the Assessment, Observation Unit and Step-Down Housing will replace SWITC
- Department and contracted staff will operate the new care settings
- Specialized Clinical Teams will be created to support individuals whose acuity exceeds traditional services
- These specialized teams will provide expert services to individuals whether they live on the state-owned campus or in the community
- New services, care settings and funding authorities will require federal and legislative approval
- Services will be based on best practice guidelines from nationally recognized programs



2022 Legislative Action

- The Department is requesting \$13,150,000 in state general funds for the building of new care settings. This is a one-time supplemental budget request is a necessary investment as part of a new treatment model.
- The department is also requesting a one-time transfer of \$46,600 in general funds and federal fund spending authority of \$416,400 for the implementation of policy, operations, and claims system changes related to implementation of the new treatment model.
- The department is presenting two bills this legislative session that will create a foundation for the new treatment model.

Phases of Implementation

The project team has completed the initial planning phase and are wrapping up the exploration phase as we transition to initial implementation. Full implementation is planned for 2024 with new buildings and new services.

