During 2020, too many children from the Western Service Area were in out of home placement
(including shelter, detention, group care, PMIC, foster care, relative placement, etc.)
WE BELIEVE, we can do a better job of serving children and families; by better utilizing funding
across service delivery systems for mental health, child welfare, and juvenile court.

Talking Points:

WE BELIEVE there needs to be better and a more coordinated alignment between the children's mental health
system, child welfare system and juvenile court system.

WE BELIEVE through better system alignment, we can change the trajectory of a child moving through the
various systems through early intervention strategies.

WE BELIEVE through local, grassroots solutions, we can break down barriers and align the systems for the
benefit of children and families, creating a healthier future workforce for Iowa.

We are proposing a one-year pilot project, WE BELIEVE will showcase how local innovative strategies of having
the right child, in the right service, at the right time, and at the right cost will result in better outcomes for children,
families, communities, and child-family serving systems.

A Sense of Urgency for Children’s Systems:

While the State is in transition for realigning the DHS and IDPH, WE BELIEVE there is a sense of urgency for
local community agencies from mental health, child welfare, and juvenile court to act now in partnering together
to meet the needs of children in Western Iowa.

We ask for your financial support to pilot a local initiative for serving our children:

- **One time funding of $300,000**
- **Service Area**: DHS Western Service Area/Third Judicial District
- **Approach –Centralized Access Point, with Employment of Two System Navigators Serving Three Service
  Systems**: Mental Health, Child Welfare, and Juvenile Court. These System Navigators will serve as neutral
  parties, creating a collaboration between the three systems.
- **Target Population**: Children with Complex Needs
- **Data Collection**: Clear, documented identification of barriers to accessing the right care, at the right time for
top of the tier children; the number of children served by case managers through this pilot project; the number
of placements/changes in placement prevented due to system alignment approach.

Anticipated Outcomes of pilot:

- **Reducing Costs to the State, Closing Gaps, and Reducing Inefficiencies between Systems in order to
  maximize available services across all three systems for the betterment of children in Western Iowa.**
- Data Collection to provide a groundwork for future funding allocation toward system alignment between the
  Mental Health, Child Welfare, and Juvenile Court systems.

**Alliance for the Betterment of Children’s Systems of Western Iowa**

- **Crittenton Center**: Kim Scorza: kscorza@crittentoncenter.org; Phone: 712.240.2177
- **Seasons Center for Behavioral Health**: Sarah Heinrichs: sheinrichs@seasonscenter.org; Phone: 712.363.5226
- **Juvenile Court Services – 3rd Judicial District**: Gary Niles: Gary.Niles@iowacourts.gov; Phone:
- **Plains Area Mental Health, Inc.**: Kim Keleher: kkeleher@pamhc.org; Phone: 712.546.4624
- **Siouxland Health Investment Partnership (SHIP)**: Matt Ohman: mohman@siouxlandship.org; Phone: 712.490.1618
- **Rolling Hills Community Services Region**: Dawn Mentzer: dmentzer@bvcountyiowa.com; Phone: 712.292.0816
- **Sky Ranch Behavioral Services**: Anna Bertrand: abertrand@sky-ranch.org; Phone: 712.277.2007
**ABCS**

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The diagram below depicts a real-time timeline of events of a child from Western Iowa.

3 System Approach: Child Welfare; Behavioral Health; Juvenile Justice - working in silos with limited alignment between systems.

In addition to **25** placements over the course of **17** years (beginning at age **2** with her first shelter placement), this child experienced **9** medication management providers; **10** outpatient therapists; **11** different schools/IEPs.

*Note: this is not reflective of multiple foster home relocations; multiple shelter and/or after care program relocations.*