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## Early Learning & Human Services Committee

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### HB 1272

**Brief Description:** Extending the program to address complex cases of children in crisis.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Callan, Eslick, Berry, Leavitt, Salahuddin, Davis, Reed, Nance, Kloba, Timmons, Macri, Simmons, Hunt and Fey.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the child and youth multisystem care project director position within the Office of the Governor and other related programs to address complex cases of children in crisis until June 30, 2027 (instead of expiring on June 30, 2025).

**Hearing Date:** 1/21/25

**Staff:** Luke Wickham (786-7146).

#### Background:

##### *Children and Youth Multisystem Care Coordinator.*

The Governor is required to maintain a children and youth multisystem care coordinator to serve as a state lead on addressing complex cases of children in crisis. Children in crisis are defined for this purpose as individuals who are under age 18 who are:

- at risk of remaining in a hospital without medical necessity;
- staying in a hospital without medical necessity; or
- dependent (active child welfare case), experiencing placement instability, and referred by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The children and youth multisystem care coordinator must:

- direct the appropriate use of state and other resources to a child in crisis;
- direct appropriate and timely action by state agencies to serve children in crisis;
- have access to flexible funds to support the safe discharge of children in crisis from hospitals, and long-term appropriate placement for children in crisis who are dependent;
- coordinate with the rapid response team to make sure that resources are effectively identified and mobilized for children in crisis; and
- coordinate with youth behavioral health and inpatient navigator teams to efficiently and effectively mobilize services for a child in crisis.

The children and youth multisystem care coordinator is also required to implement a rapid care team for the purpose of supporting and identifying appropriate services and living arrangements for a child in crisis, and that child's family in coordination with the DCYF, the Health Care Authority, the Office of Financial Management, and the Department of Social and Health Services. This rapid care team must include a system for:

- identifying children in crisis;
- initiating the rapid response team in a timely manner;
- locating services and connecting youth and families with the appropriate services to allow the child to safely discharge from a hospital;
- screening referrals; and
- determining when it would be appropriate for the DCYF to provide services to a child as the youth is a candidate for foster care, dependent child, or the family should be offered a voluntary placement agreement.

Certain individuals are identified as those who can refer a child in crisis to the rapid care team.

The children and youth multisystem care coordinator position expires June 30, 2025.

**Summary of Bill:**

The title of the staff person addressing complex cases of children in crisis in the Governor's Office is changed from the children and youth multisystem care "coordinator" to the children and youth multisystem care "project director." The child and youth multisystem care project director and other related programs to address complex cases of children in crisis is extended until June 30, 2027 (instead of expiring on June 30, 2025).

The Governor is required to provide an annual report to the Legislature including data and recommendations related to the rapid care team established by the children and youth multisystem care project director.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 14, 2025.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.