



Additional Helpful Talking Points

CAPS are mental health experts

- AACAP is the leading professional medical organization dedicated to advancing the mental health of children, adolescents, and families through research, education, and advocacy. Our 11,000 members are board-certified experts in diagnosing and treating psychiatric conditions in youth.
- 72% of all counties in the U.S. have no practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists. Many of those counties are also HRSA-designated health professional shortage areas.

Role of Psychotropic Medications

- Like any medical treatment, psychotropic medications require monitoring. Physicians work closely with families to assess the risks and benefits of psychopharmacology and to monitor for potential side effects.
- Medication is often part of a broader treatment plan that may include talk therapy, lifestyle and school changes, and family support.
- The use of psychopharmacology is based on decades of research and real-world outcomes showing consistent improvement and excellent tolerability in both the short and long term.

Medicaid Provides Access to Behavioral Health Care for Kids

- Medicaid is the largest payer of mental health services in the United States
- 40% of Medicaid enrollees are children.
- The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Medicaid benefit mandates that states cover essential mental health services for children and adolescents, including screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

HHS Reorganization will Limit Access for Kids

- SAMHSA and HRSA fund programs across the country that provide free or low-cost access to mental health and substance use disorder care, including through the block grant funding and CCBHC funding.
- HRSA student loan repayment programs incentivize medical providers to work in underserved American communities.
- HRSA funds child psychiatry access programs in all 50 states, to support primary care providers in addressing mental health issues in pediatric and family medicine offices.