**Program: Children's Mental Health Services**

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
**Bureau:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Children's Mental Health Services program makes competitive grants to state and local governments to support services for children with serious emotional disturbance.

**Program Summary:**
1. The Children's Mental Health Services program is making a unique contribution to improve care for children with serious emotional disturbance, but reaches a limited number of communities and the national impact is not fully known.
2. The program purpose is clear and commonly held by interested parties.
3. The program supports an annual evaluation to demonstrate improvements in services and outcomes for children with serious emotional disturbance in funded communities.
4. While accountability for results could be improved, the program uses performance information to improve annual outcomes.
5. The program has limited data related to the newly adopted long-term performance measures, but is meeting most of the annual targets.
6. A recent evaluation indicates the program is effective at improving the care and well being of children with serious emotional disturbance. After two years of services, 42 percent of the children showed a significant reduction in severe behavioral and emotional problems and an additional 48 percent of the children were stabilized.

Based on these findings, the Administration:
1. Proposes an increase of $10 million above the 2003 Budget to extend the reach of the program and help additional communities provide effective services to children with serious emotional disturbance.
2. Will determine if the program is making lasting improvements in the care of children with serious emotional disturbance. The program will track how well children's behavioral and emotional symptoms improve and how well funded communities sustain their systems of care beyond the period of federal funding.

**Key Performance Measures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-term Measure: Percent of funded sites that will exceed a 30 percent improvement in behavioral and emotional symptoms among children receiving services for six months (New measure)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>30%</td>
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2010 | 60% |  
2019 | 80% |  
2020 | 80% |  
2021 | 80% |  
| Long-term Measure: Percent of systems of care that are sustained five years after Federal program funding has ended (New measure, baseline under development) | 2008 | 80% |  
2009 | 80% |  
2010 | 80% |  
2011 | 80% |  
2012 | 80% |  
| Annual Measure: Average days of inpatient/residential treatment among children with serious emotional disturbance in grantee communities over the past year (Measure and targets to be refined) | 1999 | 212 | 144 |  
2000 | 212 | 149 |  
2001 | 159 | 152 |  
2002 | 151 |  

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2002 Actual</th>
<th>2003 Estimate</th>
<th>2004 Estimate</th>
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<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>107</td>
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