



association of
**Children's
Residential &
Community**
services



Together the Voice

PUBLIC POLICY TOWN HALL
JULY 11, 2022

Lisette Burton, ACRC Chief Policy & Practice Advisor



MISSION

Providing a powerful voice for residential interventions through relationships, leadership, advocacy, and the promotion of innovative treatment and best practices.



VISION

ACRC envisions youth and families thriving in their homes and communities; and should they require residential interventions, having uncompromised access to quality treatment at the right time.



Agenda

Who's in the room?

2021 Year in Review

2022 Priorities

Emerging Issues and Hot Topics

Ways to Engage in Advocacy

Discussion / Q&A

ACRC 2021 Policy & Advocacy Impact

- Expanded Networks & Partnerships
- Public Policy Committee
- Race Equity Work
- Supporting Unaccompanied Children
- COVID-19 Response and Resilience
- Family First Implementation
 - Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation Introduced (S. 2689/H.R. 5414)

2022 Policy & Advocacy Priorities

1. Addressing the Global Crisis in Children's Mental Health
2. Quality & Safety Across the Continuum
3. Strengthening the Workforce
4. Implementation of FFPSA



What does the data tell us?

- Crisis in child and adolescent mental health
 - UNICEF State of the World's Children 2021
 - Sound the Alarm
 - US Surgeon General
 - Congressional action
 - CDC statistics
- COVID made a negative trend worse

America, this is a wake-up call.

Our children and teens are in a mental health crisis.





How are we responding to the growing need?

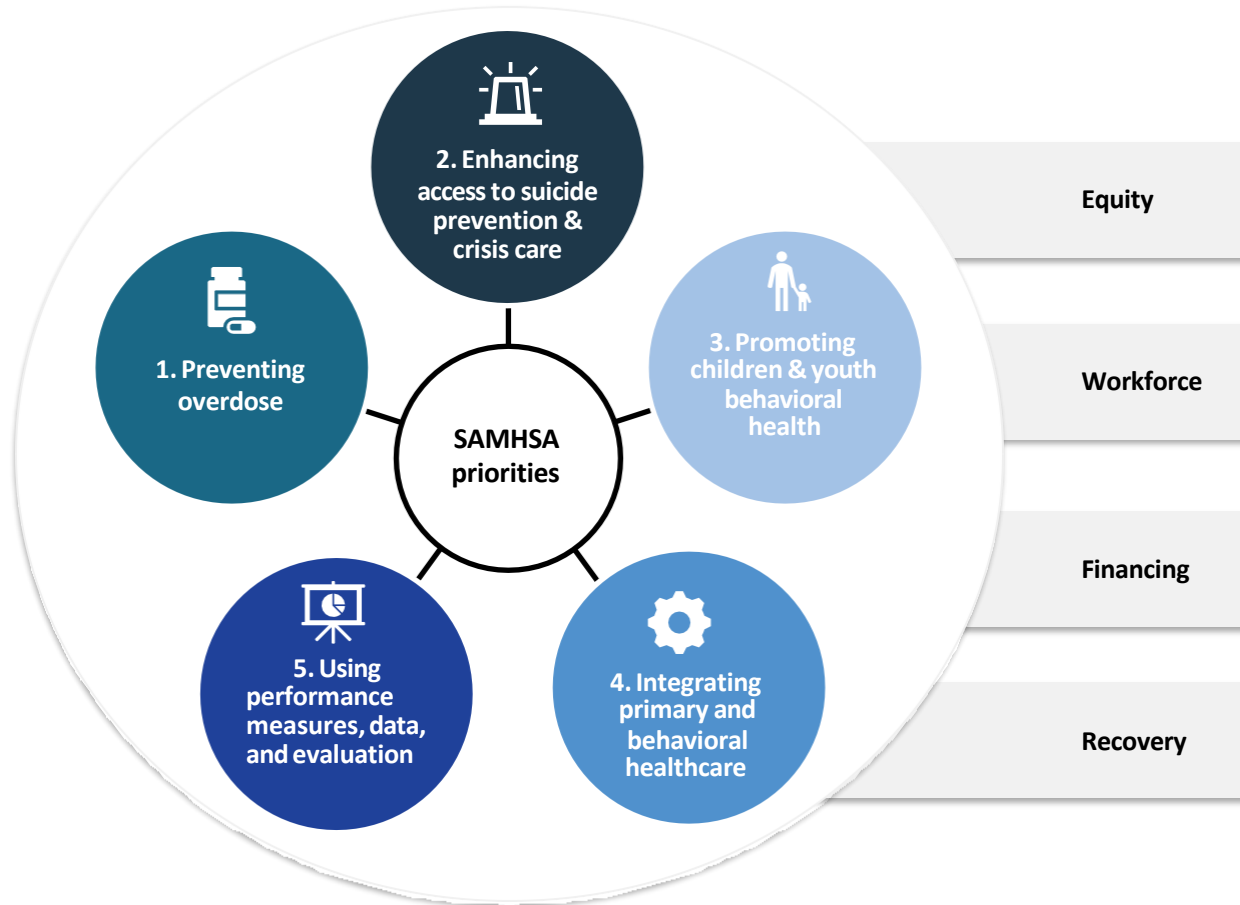
- Biden Administration
- Congressional Response
- Press coverage and public awareness
- Get ready for 988

President's Strategy to Address Our National Mental Health Crisis

- **Strengthen System Capacity**
 - Invest in proven programs that bring providers into behavioral health
 - Pilot new approaches to train a diverse group of paraprofessionals
 - Build a national certification program for peer specialists.
 - Promote the mental well-being of our **frontline health workforce**.
 - Strengthen our crisis care and suicide prevention infrastructure
- **Connect Americans to Care**
 - Expand and strengthen parity.
 - Integrate mental health and substance use treatment into primary care settings
 - Expand access to tele- and virtual mental health care options
 - Expand access to mental health support in **schools and colleges and universities**
 - Embed and co-locate mental health and substance use providers into community-based settings
- **Support Americans by Creating Healthy Environments**
 - [Supporting Child and Student Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Mental health Needs](#)
 - Invest in research on social media's mental harms
 - Expand **early childhood and school-based intervention** services and supports.
 - Increase mental health resources for justice-involved populations
 - **Train** social and human services professionals in basic mental health literacy



SAMHSA Priorities and Cross-Cutting Principles



Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Mental
Health and Substance Use



How are we responding to the growing need?

- Biden Administration
- Congressional Response
- Press coverage and public awareness
- Get ready for 988

A woman with dark, curly hair is looking out of a window. The view outside shows a city skyline with a tall building and some greenery under a blue sky with clouds. The woman has a nose ring and is looking upwards and to the right.

988

**SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE**

**Goes LIVE
July 16,
2022!!**

988 Builds Directly on the Existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

988

2001

Congress appropriates funding for suicide prevention hotline; SAMHSA awards competitive grant to establish a network of local crisis centers

2007

SAMHSA and VA partner to establish 1-800-273-TALK as access point for the **Veterans Crisis Line (VCL)**

2015

Disaster Distress Helpline was incorporated into Lifeline cooperative agreement

2020

Lifeline began incorporating **texting** service capability in select centers

2021

SAMHSA/VA/FCC are responsible for submitting multiple **988 reports to Congress**

2022

988 transition complete
July 16, 2022

2005

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) was launched with number 1-800-273-TALK

2013

Lifeline began incorporating **chat service** capability in select centers

2020

FCC designates 988 as new three-digit number for suicide prevention and mental health crises

2020

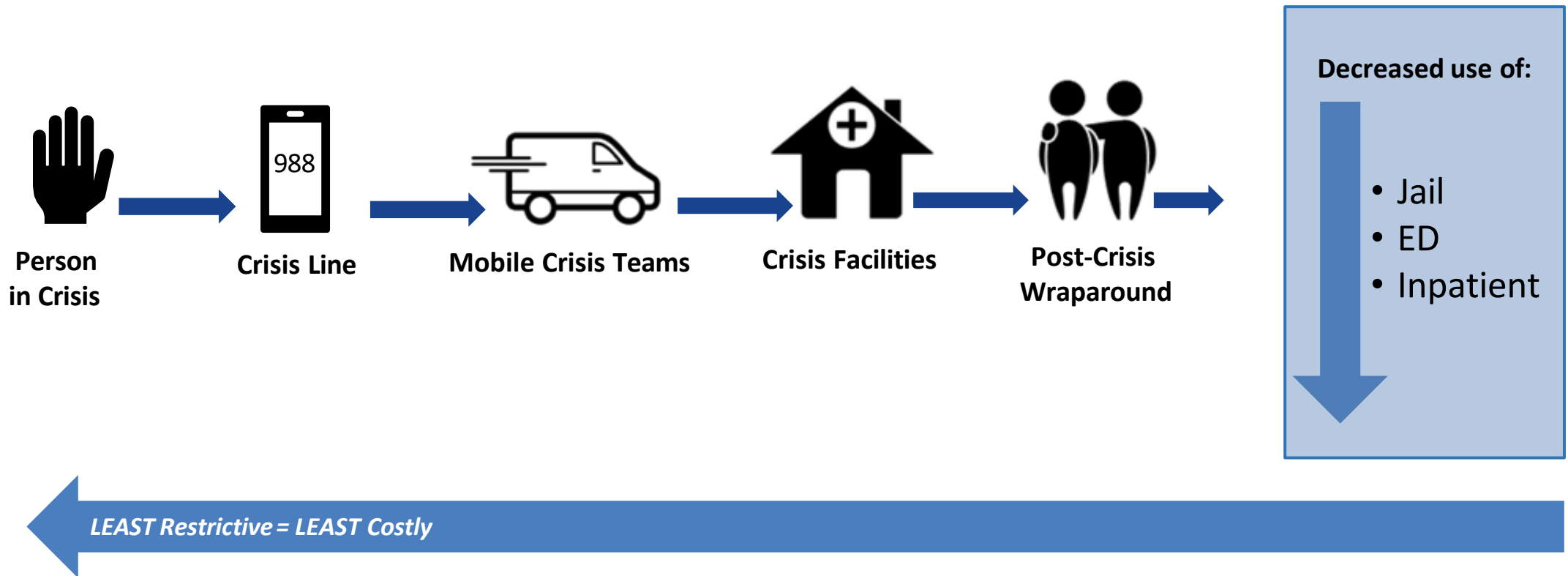
National Hotline Designation Act signed into law, incorporating 988 as the new Lifeline and VCL number

2021

State 988 funding opportunity released, and states are responsible for submitting **planning grants to Vibrant**

Crisis Contact Centers Are an Essential Component of a Broader Crisis Continuum

988



July 16, 2022: A transformative moment for the crisis care system in the U.S.



Short-term goal

A strengthened and expanded Lifeline infrastructure to respond to crisis calls, texts, and chats anytime

Long-term vision

A robust system that provides the crisis care needed anywhere in the country

PLAYBOOKS:

- Holistic view of readiness for implementation of 988 for states, territories, tribes
 - For states, territories, tribes, crisis contact centers, public safety answering points (PSAPs), behavioral health providers
- Created with partners across critical sectors
 - Co-sponsorship group
- Published on NASMHPD Website
 - <https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/988-implementation-guidance-playbooks>

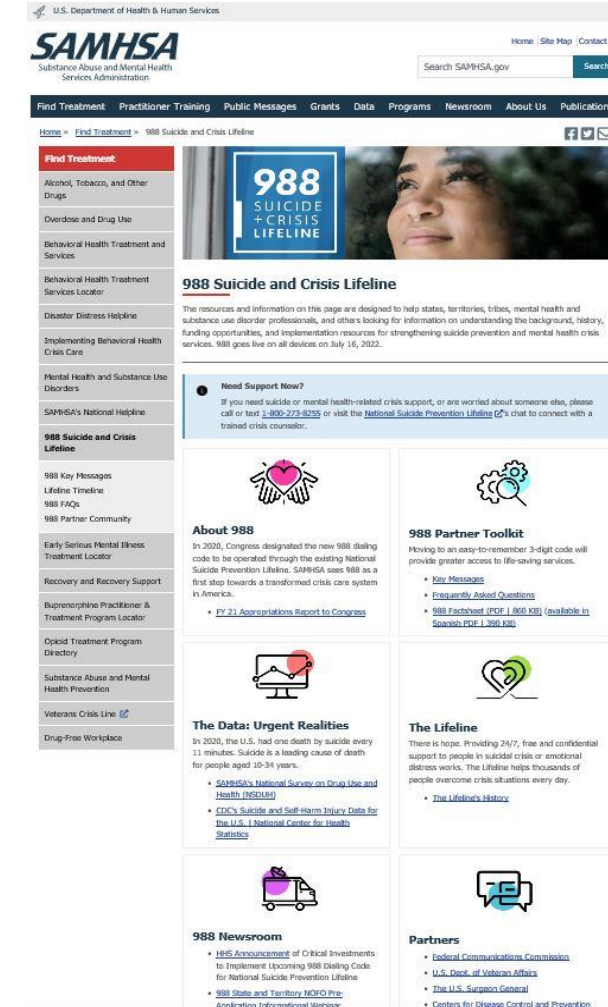


SAMHSA 988 Webpage

988

ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR 988 RESOURCES

- URL: www.samhsa.gov/988
- ABOUT 988
- PARTNER TOOLKIT
- DATA
- LIFELINE HISTORY
- MORE TO COME OVER TIME



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Emerging Issues & Hot Topics

- Too much money too fast?
- Access to mental and behavioral health care
- Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – gun safety legislation
- National infant formula shortage
- Roe v. Wade overturned
- ?

How Do we Influence Decision-Makers?

- Identify priorities
- Build credibility
- Create advocacy strategies
- Engage in issue advocacy



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

- Family First Prevention Services Act – IMD/Q RTP
- 988 Implementation
- OJJDP Listening Session [July 19](#) or [July 25](#) or provide [written feedback](#)
- Refer individuals to the ACF Black Experience [Roundtable](#) Aug. 3 or 4
- Join the ACRC Public Policy Committee





Next Steps

- Take a first step – all politics are local
- Register for ACRC's advocacy alerts – text ACRC to 52886
- Join ACRC's Public Policy Committee
- Attend Family First Implementation Town Hall – August 24th 1 pm ET



Together, we create **IMPACT**.
Together, we embrace **RESEARCH**.
Together, we celebrate **OUTCOMES**.
Together, we achieve **QUALITY**.



66TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
July 11-14, 2022 ♥ Louisville, KY

www.togetherthevoice.org

Q & A

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Why Advocate?

“Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot, Nothing is
going to get better. It's not.”

- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



acrc

together, the voice