



BEACON

Creating Connections for a Brighter Future

SUPPORTING ILLINOIS
FAMILIES THROUGH
THE CHILDREN'S
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

MEAGHAN JORGENSEN

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR
CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER



ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE (CBHTI)

- Established in 2022 to address rising youth mental health service needs.
- Focuses on closing gaps in behavioral health services for children across Illinois.
- Brings together child-serving agencies to improve access and coordination of care.
- Enhances seamless and efficient services for families, helping create a more unified system of care.

BEACON, a core component of **CBHTI**, is a single website that connects families to people, programs and services.



KEY TRANSFORMATION PRIORITIES

01

SIMPLIFY: Absorb complexity behind the scenes to ease family experience of seeking services.

02

SPEED: Leverage technology to improve efficiency and transparency.

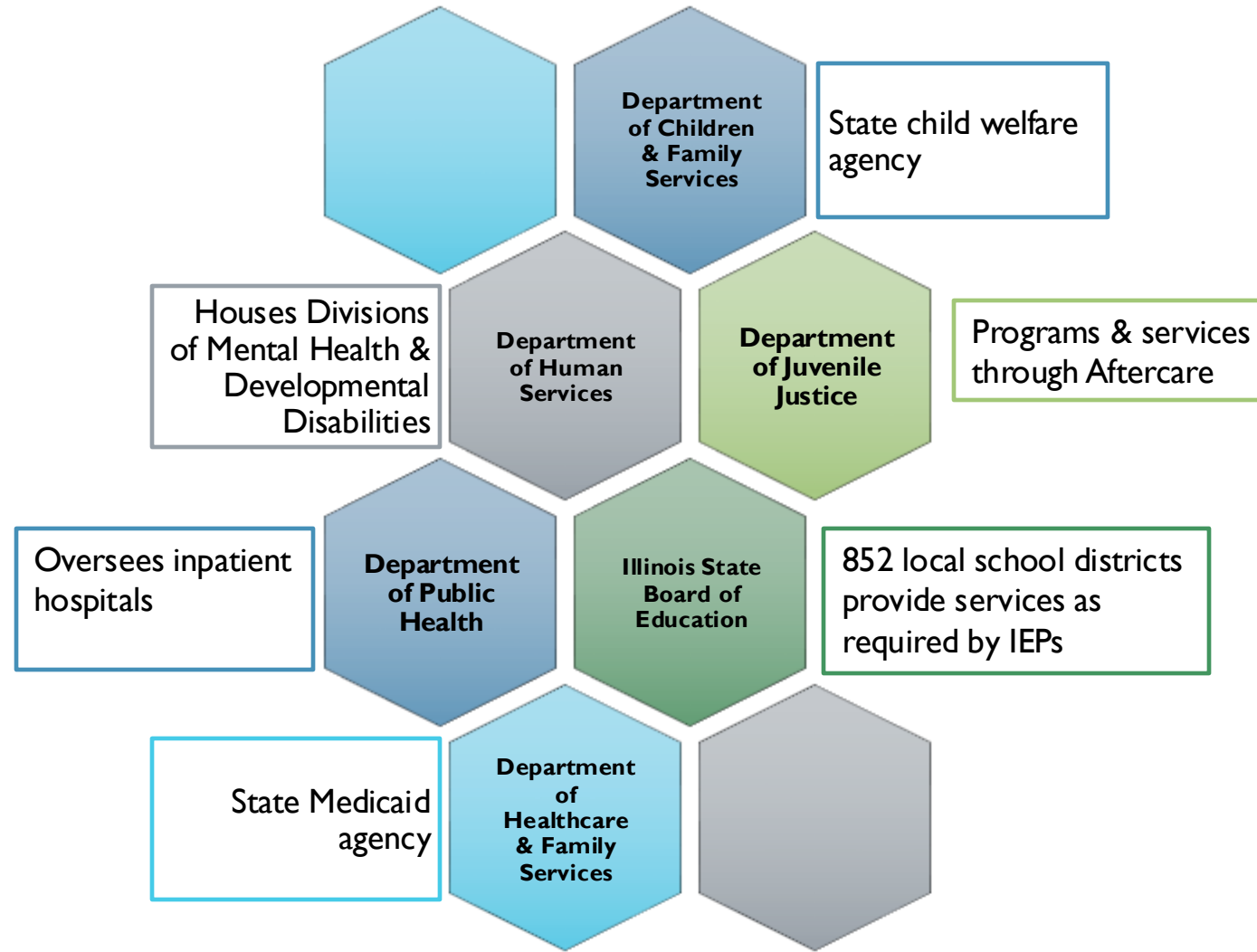
03

LISTEN: Elevate the voices of consumers by engaging parent leadership and youth participation.

04

WORK TOGETHER: Continue to support creative collaboration between public system partners.

ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM – SIX CHILD-SERVING AGENCIES



TWELVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED BARRIERS

Centralize & Streamline

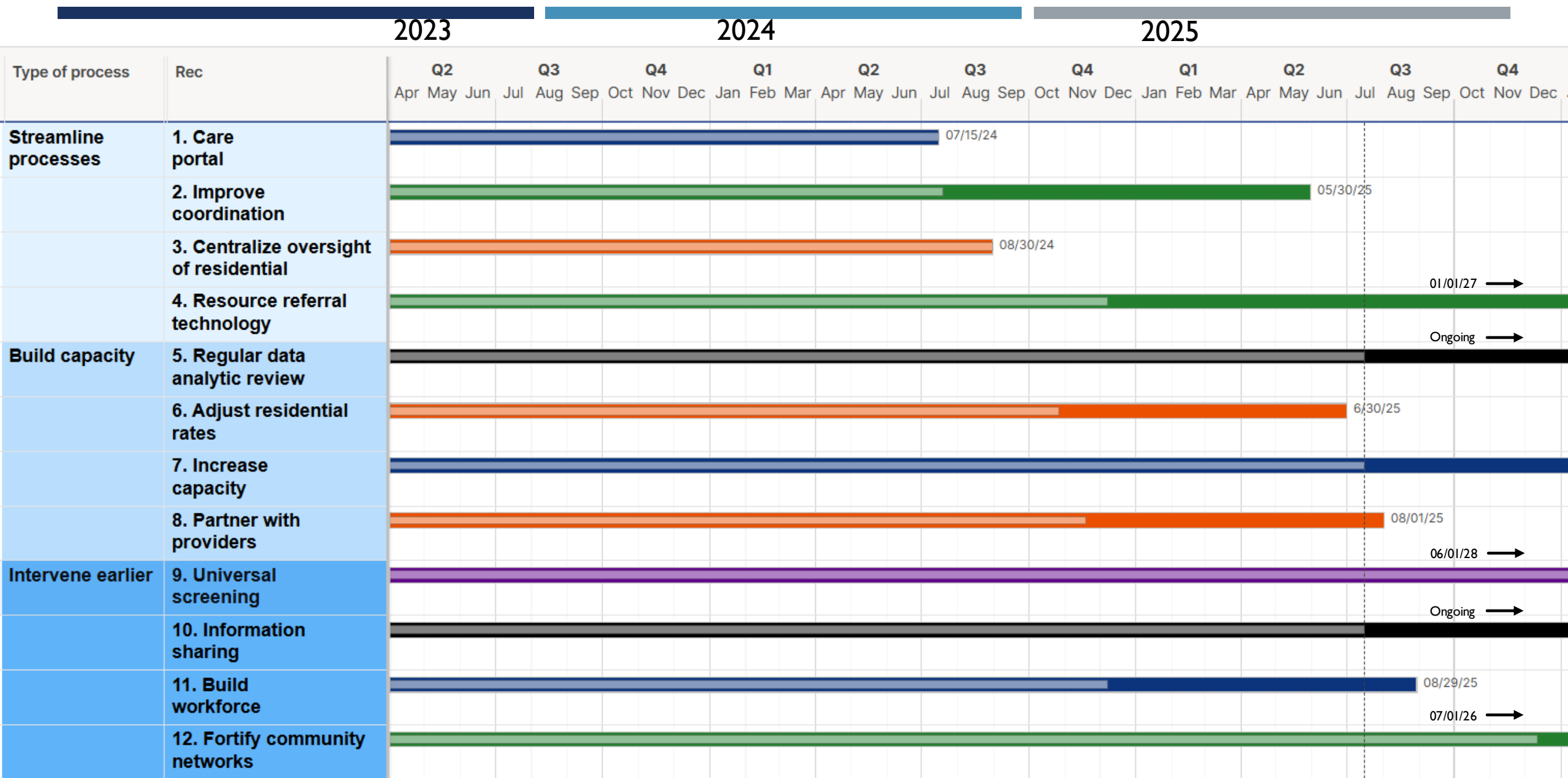
1. Develop Care Portal as centralized resource for families seeking services for children with significant and complex needs.
2. Improve coordination of service delivery.
3. Centralize oversight of residential beds.
4. Implement resource referral technology.

Adjust Capacity

5. Conduct regular data analytic review to inform capacity adjustments.
6. Adjust rates, including standardizing rates for similar services.
7. Increase capacity by expanding eligibility and developing new service types.
8. Partner with providers in a standard protocol.

Intervene Earlier

9. Offer universal screening in education and pediatrics.
10. Facilitate information sharing across agencies.
11. Build workforce using paraprofessionals and other roles.
12. Fortify community networks by investing in local communities and parent leadership.



WHY WAS BEACON CREATED?

- To help families easily find and connect to the right services in one simple place.
- To use technology to streamline communication and reduce delays.
- To provide tools for tracking progress and maintaining communication.
- To create a shared platform for agencies to work together seamlessly.



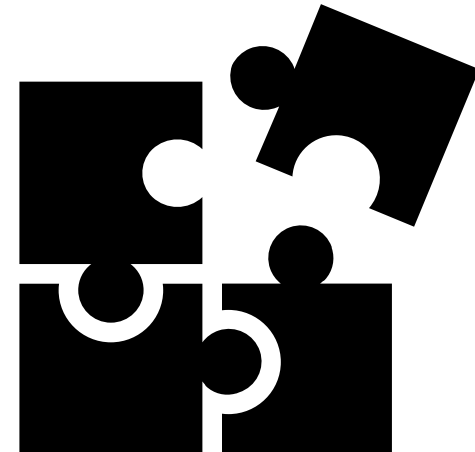
BEACON: A ROUTING APPLICATION

- **Centralized Service Portal:** BEACON connects families to the right services through a single website.
- **Service Matching:** Helps families find services based on youth needs and characteristics.
- **Coordination:** Allows state agencies with consent to share data, track cases, and collaborate in real-time to provide holistic care.
- **Family Features:** Offers families the ability to create accounts, manage important documents, and connect to agency representatives and navigators for help.



BEACON IS JUST ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

- BEACON connects families with helpers and allows everyone to see what is available for youth.
- Many other improvements are underway, including:
 - statewide resource referral tool
 - additional capacity for services to reduce wait times
 - community networks
 - behavioral health workforce expansion
- *BEACON does not* provide diagnostic assessment, prescribe services, or make appointments at this time.



ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE IN BEACON

- **Commitment to Privacy and Confidentiality:** BEACON ensures that all client data is handled securely and in compliance with privacy laws (e.g., HIPAA) within an encrypted, secure platform that only individuals with consent can access.
- **Informed Consent:** Families are fully informed about how their data will be used, with clear consent processes in place.
- **Legal and Ethical Compliance:** BEACON adheres to all relevant legal standards, including mandatory reporting laws.



BEACON LAUNCH PLAN

Phase I (August 15) – go live; release for interagency team’s case management of Friday crisis call cases



Phase II (October 1) – provisional release for system partners, potentially to include

- Hospitals, legislators, attorneys, state agency staff
- School personnel



Phase III (January) – public release

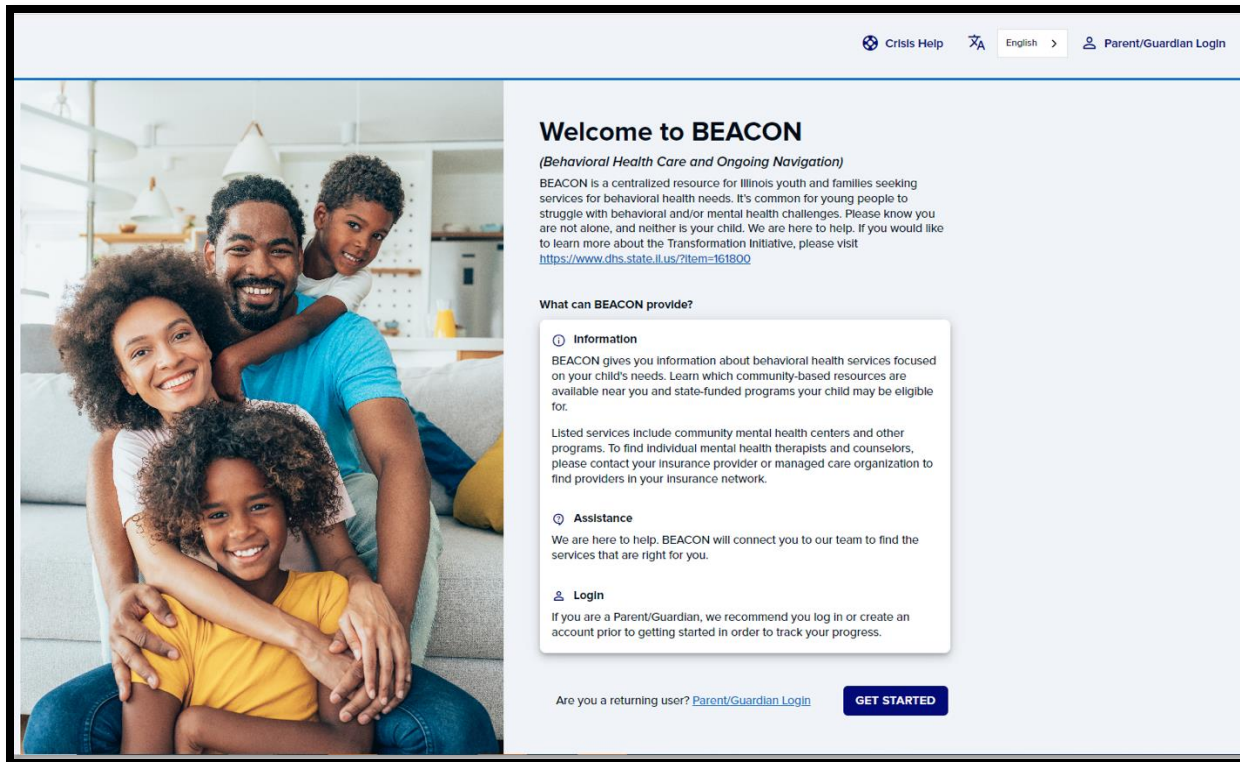
You
are
here

BEACON LANGUAGES

BEACON is available in Arabic, Hindi, Polish, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Ukrainian



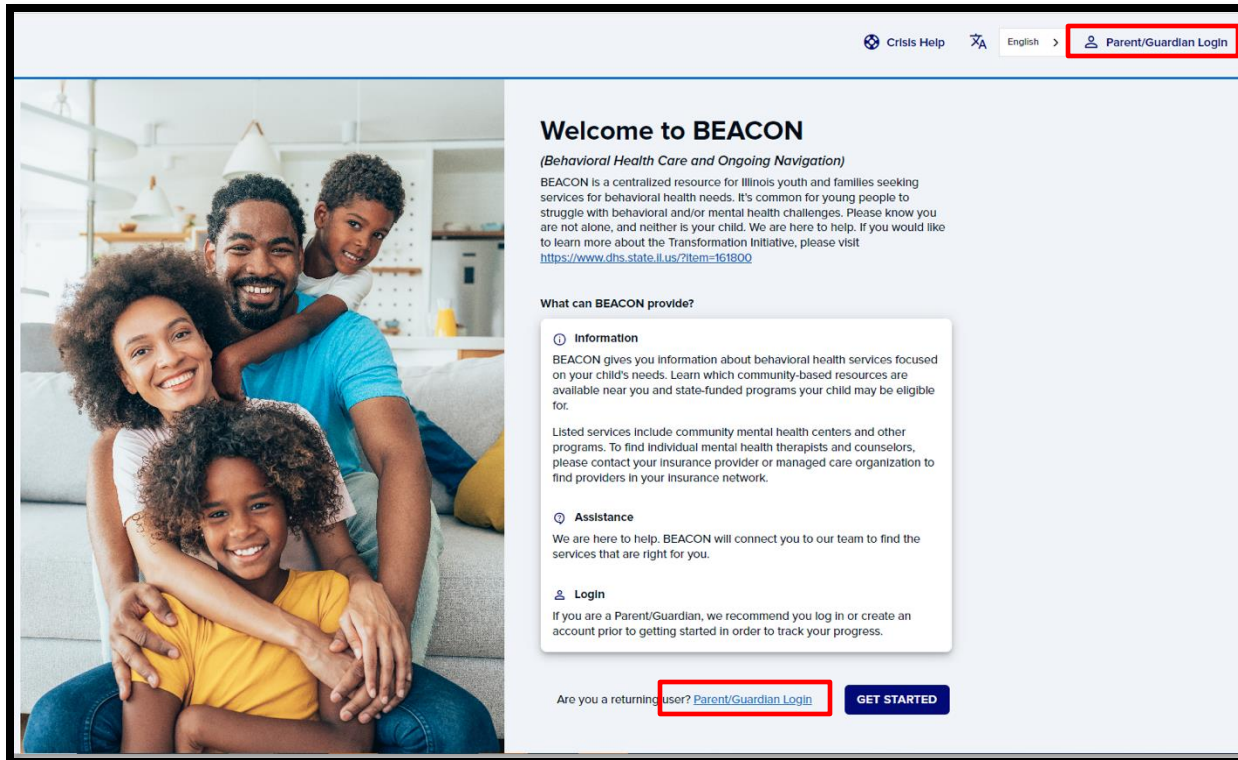
ACCESSING BEACON



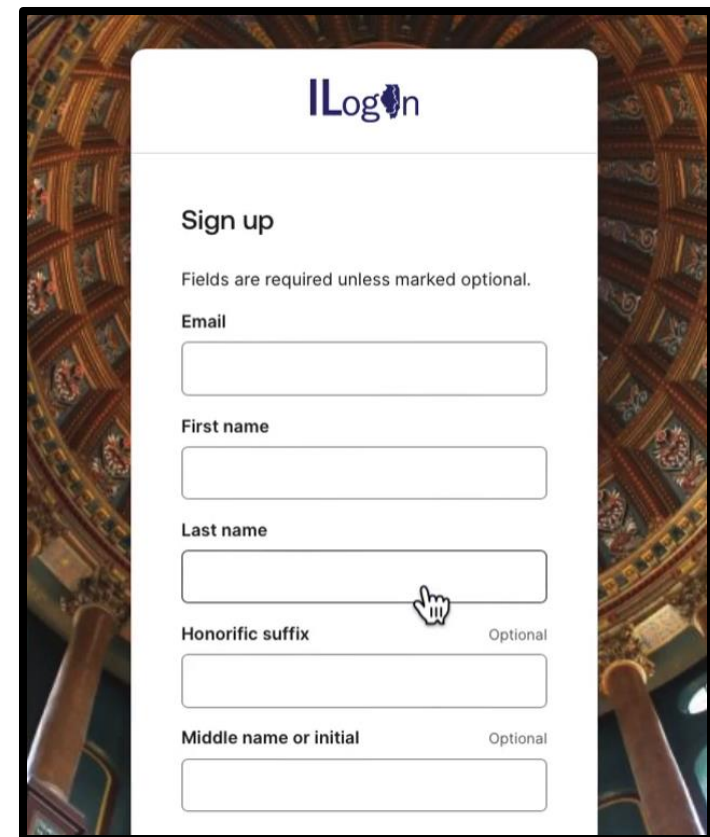
- **Website URL:** Access the portal at www.beacon.illinois.gov
- **Create an Account:** Recommended for parents/guardians to track requests and save progress.
- **Crisis Resources:** Immediate access to crisis services, including 24/7 support like the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT (FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS)

We recommend parents/guardians log in or create an account prior to getting started in order to track requests, save their progress, and make future interactions with the portal smoother.



The screenshot shows the BEACON website home page. At the top right, there is a navigation bar with links for "Crisis Help", "English", and "Parent/Guardian Login" (the latter is highlighted with a red box). The main content area features a large image of a smiling family on the left. To the right of the image, the text reads "Welcome to BEACON" followed by "(Behavioral Health Care and Ongoing Navigation)". Below this, a paragraph describes BEACON as a centralized resource for Illinois youth and families. A link is provided: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/?item=161800>. Further down, a section titled "What can BEACON provide?" lists "Information", "Assistance", and "Login". The "Login" section states: "If you are a Parent/Guardian, we recommend you log in or create an account prior to getting started in order to track your progress." At the bottom, there is a question "Are you a returning user?" with a "Parent/Guardian Login" link (highlighted with a red box) and a "GET STARTED" button.



The screenshot shows the ILogIn sign-up form. The form is titled "Sign up" and includes the instruction "Fields are required unless marked optional." The form fields are: "Email", "First name", "Last name", "Honorific suffix" (marked as Optional), and "Middle name or initial" (marked as Optional). A hand cursor is shown hovering over the "Last name" field.

ANYONE CAN USE BEACON WITHOUT CREATING AN ACCOUNT

Without sharing information about the child/youth, you can still access a list of community-based services.

If you are comfortable sharing some basic intake information about the child/youth, you can access community-based and State-funded programs they may be eligible for.

Community-Based Services

Local community-based organizations can support your child and connect you to behavioral health professionals. If you have trouble finding or using these services, please contact our staff at dhs.dmh.beacon@illinois.gov. We're here to help. If you would like to learn more about the Transformation Initiative, please visit <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/?item=161800>

The following are resource directories that may have more services in your area:

[Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#)

[SPIDER](#)

[FindHelp](#)

[211](#) (in some parts of Illinois)

[School-based mental health resources](#)

The following programs are a great place to start:

Please note that the following community-based program results are listed by distance, displaying only the first 25. For more assistance, please visit the Service Provider Identification & Exploration Resource ([SPIDER](#)) to view additional options.

At this time, programs appearing on this list are not endorsed by the state nor guaranteed to have availability. Future versions of this system will be able to incorporate availability. Please continue to visit our site for improvements!

List of eligible programs

[DOWNLOAD SELECTED](#) [EMAIL SELECTED](#)

☒	Program	Type	Description
☒	Marillac St.Vincent Family Services Child Development Program	Community Based Programs	2145 N. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60614 312-943-6776
☒	DePaul Family and Community Services Psychological Testing Program	Community Based Programs	2219 N. Kenmore Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 773-325-7780
☒	DePaul Family and Community Services Child and Family Therapy	Community Based Programs	2219 N. Kenmore Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 773-325-7780

BASIC INFORMATION:

Your Relationship to Child/Youth*

State Agency Partner



Child/Youth Information

Child/Youth First Name*

Suzzie

Child/Youth Last Name*

Smith

Child/Youth Date of Birth (Optional)



Child/Youth Age

12

What do you need help with? (Optional)

Continue



Child/Youth Address

Address Line 1 (Optional)

Address Line 2 (Optional)

City*

Decatur

State*

Illinois



Zip Code*

62521

Ext. (Optional)

0000

Child/Youth Current Residency



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Child/Youth Information

Who has the legal custody of the child?

Custody Status*

Parent



Does the child/youth have any of the following needs? (Optional)

Select all that apply:

- ☐ Aggressive Behavior [i](#)
- ☒ Anxiety [i](#)
- ☐ Disrupted eating or sleeping [i](#)
- ☒ Depression or mood problems [i](#)
- ☐ Use of drugs or alcohol
- ☐ Crisis Care [i](#)
- ☐ Medically Complex [i](#)
- ☐ Developmental Disability [i](#)
- ☐ Severe Emotional Disturbance [i](#)
- ☐ Functional Impairment [i](#)
- ☐ 24-HR Nursing [i](#)
- ☐ Psychotic Episode [i](#)



Is the child/youth signed up for or receiving any current involvement with the following programs/services? (Optional)

Select all that apply:

- ☒ CARES/Mobile Crisis Response [i](#)
- ☐ Developmental Disabilities Waiver [i](#)
- ☐ DCFS Hotline [i](#)
- ☐ Family Support Program / Specialized Family Support Program [i](#)
- ☐ Specialized Education Due Process [i](#)
- ☐ Individualized Education Plan (IEP) [i](#)
- ☐ On PUNS List [i](#)
- ☐ DCFS Investigation [i](#)

SERVICES SEEKING:

Does the child/youth have a specific need for any of the following services? (Optional)

Service Type

Counseling/Therapy



Service

Individual Counseling



Medical Information

What type of health insurance does the child/youth have?

If you have Tricare insurance, select “Private” from the menu below.

Insurance*

Medicaid



DO YOU NEED MORE ASSISTANCE?

If so, please mark "yes" to talk to our Resource Coordination team for more information about services for the child/youth.

Do you need further assistance?

Yes

No

Back

Continue



REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

You can request additional assistance from the BEACON team if you would like more guidance after viewing the list of services you may be eligible for.

The following programs are a great place to start:

Please note that the following community-based program results are listed by distance, displaying only the first 25. For more assistance, please visit the Service Provider Identification & Exploration Resource ([SPIDER](#)) to view additional options.

At this time, programs appearing on this list are not endorsed by the state nor guaranteed to have availability. Future versions of this system will be able to incorporate availability. Please continue to visit our site for improvements!

List of eligible programs [DOWNLOAD SELECTED](#) [EMAIL SELECTED](#)

☒	Program	Type	Description
☒	Marillac St.Vincent Family Services Child Development Program	Community Based Programs	2145 N. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60614 312-943-6776
☒	DePaul Family and Community Services Psychological Testing Program	Community Based Programs	2219 N. Kenmore Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 773-325-7780
☒	DePaul Family and Community Services Child and Family Therapy	Community Based Programs	2219 N. Kenmore Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 773-325-7780

[Back](#) [Next Step](#)

Do you need more assistance?

If so, please mark "yes" to talk to our Resource Coordination team for more information about services for the child/youth.

Do you need further assistance?



Your request for assistance has been submitted.

Please note: Requests will be reviewed by the DHS team within 24 hours excluding holidays and weekends.

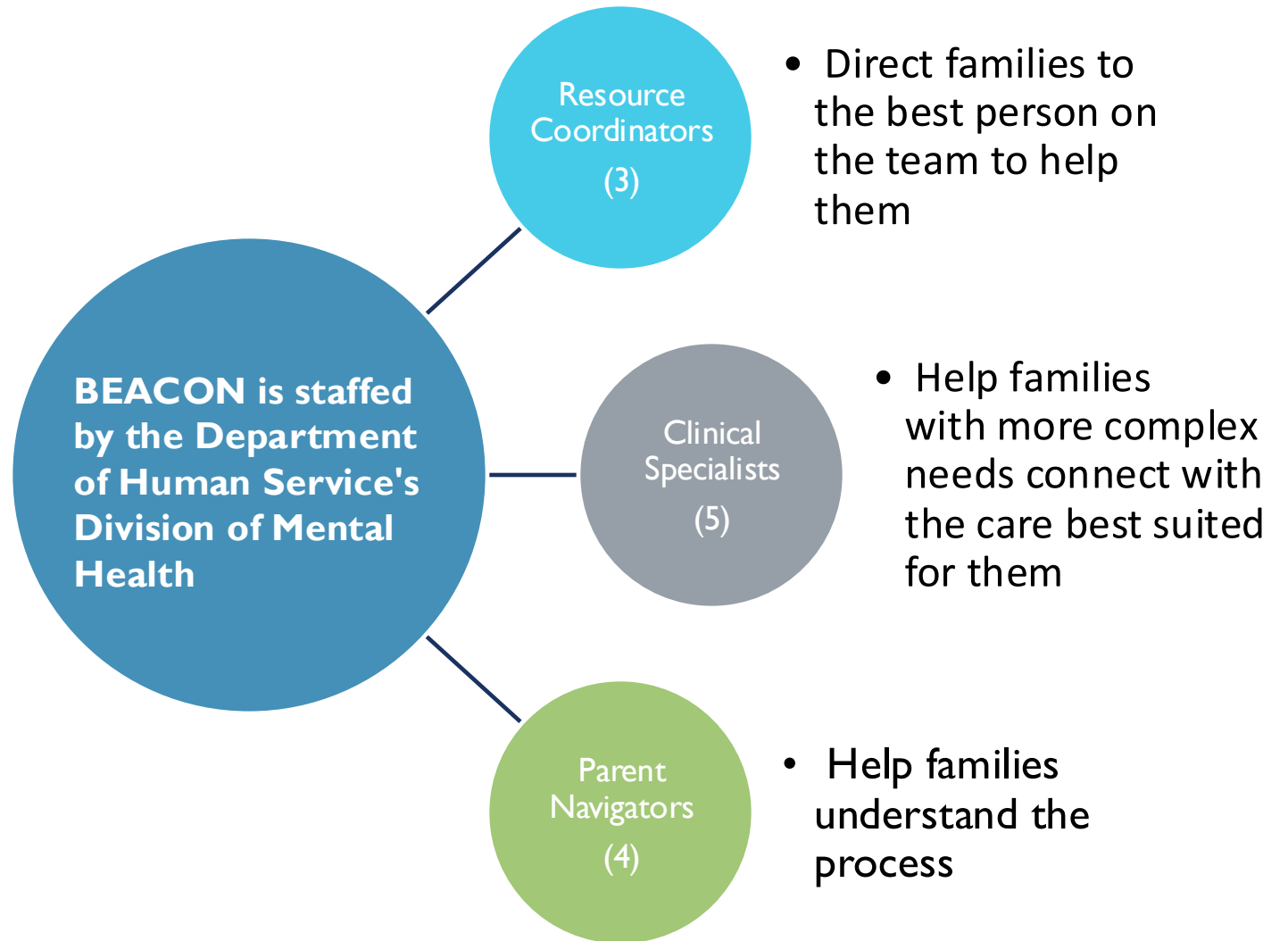
What's Next?
A Resource Coordinator will review the details and follow up with the youth or parent/guardian with next steps.

Request ID: BEACON-100070
Date: 08/8/2024

If you have questions about your requests, please contact 1-800-843-6154 during business hours.

Thank you for using BEACON. If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact our staff at dhs.dmh.beacon@illinois.gov. We are here to help you receive the support and guidance you need.

The Division of Mental Health understands how stressful it can be to care for a child facing mental health challenges. We want you to have access to mental health resources that would benefit you as well as those whom you are responsible for. If you are an adult looking for support for yourself, please visit our [Office Locator](#).



Clinical Specialists

- Transition Age
- Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Internalizing Disorders
- Disruptive Disorders
- SPB/Justice Involved

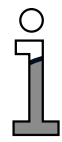
TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING BEACON'S BENEFIT FOR FAMILIES



If you are searching for information on behalf of a family, provide them with the entire list of services they may be eligible for.



If you request additional assistance on behalf of a family, let them know that a Resource Coordinator will be reaching out to them.



Remind the family that we need their permission to share any information with the BEACON team (consent). If the family needs help submitting consent, the BEACON team can assist.



CBHTI WEBSITE

Progress and Updates



Links

- [Recording of BEACON Training for School Personnel from 11.1.24](#)

In the months since Governor Pritzker signed an Executive Order establishing the Initiative and our state's commitment to achieving transformational change with the full implementation of the [Blueprint for Transformation: A Vision for Improved Behavioral Healthcare for Illinois Children \(pdf\)](#), we have many accomplishments to report. Read more about them here:

- [BEACON Flyer \(pdf\)](#)
- [BEACON one-pager for providers \(pdf\)](#)
- [BEACON Languages Available \(pdf\)](#)
- [BEACON Training for School Personnel from 11.1.24 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Recording of BEACON Training for School Personnel from 11.1.24](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

NEXT STEPS

- **Ongoing Development:**
New features and enhancements will be added based on feedback from families and providers.
- **Expansion of Services:**
BEACON will integrate additional services, ensuring a broader range of support options.
- **Continuous Improvement:**
BEACON will undergo regular updates to remain responsive to the evolving needs of families.





Access the Blueprint for Transformation: A Vision for Improved Behavioral Healthcare for Illinois Children



BLUEPRINT for TRANSFORMATION

A Vision for Improved Behavioral Healthcare for Illinois Children

January 2023

QUESTIONS?

