



The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has proposed the development of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) for children in Maine. This is dangerous backward-looking policy.

See proposed Maine Care regulations:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/rules/proposed.shtml#anchor795128>

See proposed Licensing regulations:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/rules/maine-cdc-rules.shtml#anchor795617>

There are public hearing for both of these proposals on **May 21, 2018** at the  
**Augusta Civic Center, Piscataquis/Sagadahoc Room**  
76 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine

**9am** for the PRTF rules; and  
**1pm** for the licensing rules

Written comments must be submitted by **May 31, 2018**.

Written comments on the PRTF rule can be submitted electronically at:

[https://www1.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/rules/rulemaking\\_comments.shtml?id=795128](https://www1.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/rules/rulemaking_comments.shtml?id=795128)

Written comments on the licensing rules can be submitted electronically at:

[http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/rules/rulemaking\\_comments.shtml?id=795617](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/rules/rulemaking_comments.shtml?id=795617)

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# **Maine kids with disabilities are entitled to quality services in their homes and communities!**

## **Maine shouldn't pay 3.5 million a year to institutionalize 20 children**

- DHHS is proposing to create at least 1 psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF).
- The proposed rate is \$485.72 a day or \$177, 287.80 a year for each child.
- Unnecessarily institutionalizing children is discrimination and violates the American with Disabilities Act.

## **PRTFs are expensive and ineffective**

A 5 year, 9 state study, funded by US DHHS, found that:

- Home and community based services cost 1/3 of comparable PRTF service; and had better outcomes for children; including:
  - Improved school attendance and caregiver productivity
  - Increased children's behavioral and emotional strengths
  - Decreased alcohol and drug use
  - Promoted more stable living arrangements
  - Reduced suicide attempts
  - Decreased contacts with law enforcement

## **Hundreds of children in Maine are currently waiting for home and community based services; some as long as two years.**

- According to most recent publicly available data, Maine spent \$195 million on children's community -based programs; where did it go, and what were the goals or outcomes?
- Every child admitted to a PRTF will eventually be discharged back to the home and community and will need community services, too.
- DHHS is providing no increase in home and community based services; it is not clear how children discharged from PRTFs will be served.

## **Maine needs to fix the broken children's community system first.**

- Before Maine spends any more scarce public money spent on new, ineffective and costly services, DHHS needs to do a system wide assessment and develop a strategic plan with clear outcome measures and a well-developed quality improvement program, and then implement it.