WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of Iowa’s children are of utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of Iowa’s children relies upon access to necessary and appropriate mental health care services; and

WHEREAS, one in five adults experiences a mental health condition each year, with half of all mental health conditions beginning by age fourteen (14), and seventy-five (75) percent of such conditions beginning by age twenty-four (24); and

WHEREAS, current systems are inadequate to address the mental health needs of Iowa’s children; and

WHEREAS, a children’s mental health system, dedicated to improving the well-being of Iowa’s children, designed to build healthy and resilient children and families, meant to provide for educational growth, and committed to coordinating medical and mental health care will require a coordinated cross-systems effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, do hereby declare that the interests of Iowa’s youth are best served by the establishment of a statewide mental health system that is committed to improving children’s well-being, building healthy and resilient children, providing for educational growth, and coordinating medical and mental health care for those in need. I hereby order the establishment of a Children’s System State Board (hereinafter the “Children’s Board”) to serve as the single point of responsibility in the development and implementation of a Children’s Mental Health System (hereinafter the “Children’s System”), as recommended by the Children’s Mental Health and Well-Being Advisory Committee.

SECTION ONE: Purpose and Charge.

I. The Children’s Board is tasked with finding concrete solutions to the unique challenges that exist relating to children’s mental health in the State of Iowa. The Children’s Board shall study and consider, to the extent necessary or appropriate, existing information and data from previous working group materials and reports, as well as collect and utilize new information and data to develop and implement the Children’s System.

II. The Children’s Board shall develop a strategic plan with specific recommendations to create and implement the Children’s System. This strategic plan shall do all of the following:

A. Analyze and identify target populations to be served by the Children’s System;
B. Analyze and identify services to be delivered locally to target populations to be served by the Children’s System;
C. Analyze and design a long-term sustainable funding structure for the Children’s System;
D. Establish, as necessary or appropriate, any local area boards, commissions, or entities, and such local area boards, commissions, or entities’ membership components and governance expectations, in order to further the purposes and goals of the Children's System, taking into consideration geographical factors,
existing structures, services, or organizations, the Mental Health and Disability Commission, and judicial district lines;

E. Analyze and identify any legislative, regulatory, and policy ideas that are designed to improve children's mental health in the State of Iowa; and

F. Reach other goals and objectives as may be from time to time directed by the Office of the Governor.

III. The strategic plan to be produced by the Children's Board pursuant to this Executive Order shall be submitted to the Office of the Governor no later than November 15, 2018.

SECTION TWO: Organization and Operation.

I. The Children's Board shall be comprised of members appointed by the Governor. Each member will serve at the pleasure of the Governor without compensation and in an advisory capacity only.

II. The Governor may appoint any of the following individuals to the Children's Board:

A. The Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services, or a designee;
B. The Director of the Iowa Department of Education, or a designee;
C. The Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, or a designee;
D. The Director of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, or a designee;
E. The Director of the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, or a designee;
F. The Iowa State Court Administrator, or a designee;
G. A representative of an Iowa juvenile court detention center, or a designee;
H. A representative from Early Childhood Iowa, or a designee;
I. A representative from the Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission, or a designee;
J. A children's mental health provider, or a designee;
K. A child welfare provider, or a designee;
L. A local K-12 educator or education, counselor, administrator, or a designee;
M. A representative of an established advocacy organization whose mission or purpose it is, in part, to further goals related to children's health, or a designee;
N. A parent or guardian of a child with a serious emotional disturbance, or a designee;
O. A representative from the Iowa Hospital Association, or a designee;
P. A representative of law enforcement, or a designee;
Q. A Chief Operating Officer of a Mental Health Disability Region, or a designee;
R. A representative from an Iowa Area Education Agency, or a designee;
S. Two members of the Iowa Senate, to serve as non-voting, ex officio members, one member being from the majority political party and the other being from the minority political party;
T. Two members of the Iowa House of Representatives, to serve as non-voting, ex officio members, one member being from the majority political party and the other being from the minority political party; and
U. Any other persons or representatives of organizations whomsoever deemed appropriate by the Governor, as named from time to time.

III. The Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services, or his or her designee, and the Director of the Iowa Department of Education, or his or her designee, shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Children's Board.

IV. The Children's Board shall hold regular meetings to be scheduled by the Co-Chairs of the Children's Board. The Children's Board shall also have the power and authority to hold special meetings as deemed necessary or appropriate from time to time by the Co-Chairs or the Office of the Governor. Regular and special meetings of the Children's Board shall continue as necessary or appropriate after the submission of the Children's Board's strategic plan to the Office of the Governor in order to oversee, implement, and maintain the Children's System, and to provide technical advice or assistance to the
Children's System or other governmental or non-governmental entities involved with the Children's System.

V. Staffing and administrative assistance for the Children's Board shall be provided by the Iowa Department of Human Services, and by other persons or organizations from time to time as deemed necessary or appropriate by the Office of the Governor. The Children's Board may seek sponsors, donors, or hosts on an as-needed basis to assist in covering any costs of meetings or events, including, but not limited to, costs associated with providing facilities, food, refreshments, printing, promotional materials, and the like.

SECTION THREE: Miscellaneous.

I. All departments, agencies, boards, or other political subdivisions of any state and local governments shall cooperate fully with the Children's Board. The Children's Board may seek the expertise and services of individuals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice, and other needs, as necessary or appropriate, to accomplish its mission.

II. All work of the Children's Board shall be done in a manner consistent with the laws and regulations of the State of Iowa, and of the laws and regulations of the United States of America.

III. This Executive Order shall be interpreted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. If any provision of this Executive Order is found to be invalid, unenforceable, or otherwise contrary to applicable law, then the remaining provisions of this Executive Order, as applied to any person or circumstance, shall continue in full force and effect and shall not be affected by such finding of invalidity or unenforceability. This Executive Order is not intended to supersede any laws, regulations, or collective bargaining agreements in place as of its effective date.

IV. This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the State of Iowa, its Departments, Agencies, or Political Subdivisions, or its officers, employees, agents, or any other persons.

V. The directive in this Executive Order shall apply prospectively only as of its effective date.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED TO THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER. DONE IN DES MOINES, IOWA THIS 23RD DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN.

KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE