

Children's Mental Health Initiative

10/21/2013

A partnership to help youth with intensive mental health challenges and their families

Meant to be an alternative to traditional CHINS 6 filings, the Children's Mental Health Initiative is a new opportunity for families to access services through a unique partnership between the Department of Child Services and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

What the Program Provides

This program is designed to provide a high fidelity wraparound approach to individual service planning which combines formal supports that the youth needs with the natural supports he or she has in the community. A Wraparound Facilitator helps create a child and family team to include teachers, counselors, pastors, neighbors, friends, family and other people involved with the family. Through the child and family team process, an individualized, community-based service plan will be developed; it will include a safety plan to make sure the family has steps to take when there is an emergency.

Who is Eligible for the Project?

- The child/youth must be at least age 6 and under age 18.
- Youth/families will need: DSM Diagnosis. The youth meets criteria for two (2) or more diagnoses.
- CANS behavioral recommendation of 4, 5, or 6
- Youth must have at least borderline IQ
- Dysfunctional Behavior: Youth is demonstrating patterns of behavior that place him/her at risk of institutional placement & unresponsive to traditional outpatient and/or community-based therapy. Specifically:
 - Maladjustment to trauma
 - Conduct problems
 - Psychosis
 - Sexual aggression
 - Debilitating anxiety
 - Fire-setting
- Family Functioning and Support: The Family/caregiver demonstrates significant need in one or more of the following areas:
 - Mental health
 - Family stress
 - Supervision issues
 - Substance abuse
- The child cannot:
 - Be eligible for Medicaid, have an open DCS case or open probation case.
 - Have diagnostic eligibility for services through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (including ASD diagnosis)
 - Have a primary diagnosis of ADHD or substance abuse

How to Access Services

The State of Indiana has agreements with community Access Sites around the state. The Access Site serves as a clearinghouse to determine eligibility for this program, as well as a variety of other intensive mental health services. *Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare is the Access Site for Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. Anyone can refer a child to the Access Site.* The Access Site will contact the family and secure authorization to determine the youth's eligibility for this program. If the youth qualifies, the Access Site will make arrangements for a Wraparound Facilitator to assist the family going forward. If the youth does not qualify for this particular program, the Access Site will assist the family by making a connection with other community resources that might benefit the youth and family.

The Access Site at Southwestern: (812) 436-4279