

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Behavioral Health Services

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

**Subject: Children's Mental Health:
Overview of Services**

Policy No. 2411

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**Responsible for Updating:
Director of Children's Services**

Approval: 
Behavioral Health Director

2.15.18
Date

POLICY:

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Services and contract agencies shall provide mental health services to children, youth and families who meet medical necessity criteria for EPSDT Medi-Cal services.

PURPOSE:

To provide a summary of Children's Behavioral Health services, its specific focus and eligibility criteria.

DEFINITIONS:

- 1. Medical Necessity for EPSDT** Child/adolescent who has an included diagnosis per MHSUD Information Notice 17-004E using current edition of DSM for criteria, an impairment or probability of not progressing developmentally and the condition that can be ameliorated with mental health treatment.
- 2. Target Population** Child/adolescent Med-Cal beneficiaries who meet Medical Necessity criteria for EPSDT and who require Specialty Mental Health Services.

PROCEDURES:

1. Mission Statement

To work with families and youth in our community to help them stay at home, in school, out of trouble and support a healthy lifestyle. We strive to provide strength based, accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate services that are comprehensive, using a flexible "whatever it takes" approach to help youth and families achieve their own positive outcome.

Santa Cruz County Children's Behavioral Health utilizes a System of Care approach to provide targeted behavioral health services in conjunction with interagency partners and contract providers. All services are provided in order to:

- a. Maintain children in their homes whenever possible.
- b. Maintain school attendance and increase benefit from education.
- c. Provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
- d. Strengthen family involvement.
- e. Provide trauma-informed and strengths-based services.
- f. Utilize a System of Care approach to implement Pathways To Wellbeing Core Practice Model.
- g. Provide individualized, field based services.
- h. Ensure all treatment planning is guided by the Child and Family Teaming Process.
- i. Place children in the least restrictive yet clinically appropriate setting when out of home treatment is required.
- j. Reduce juvenile justice recidivism.
- k. Reduce the need for residential treatment and hospital placements.
- l. Use evaluation to improve benefits of behavioral health services to shape policy.
- m. Coordinate service delivery.

2. Referrals for Services

All referrals to the programs described below come from either:

- a. Children's Behavioral Health
- b. Directly to each program from community based agencies, Probation, Social Services, schools or individual families.

3. Probation Programs

Probation Wraparound is a program that seeks to strengthen families so that youth at imminent risk for out of home placement may continue living at home, with their families and in their communities. By using innovative, non-traditional approaches to case planning and service delivery, families are central to all decision-making and professional services which support the family's vision for success. Wraparound is a partnership between the Juvenile Division of the Probation Department, Substance Use Disorders (SUDS), and the Family Partnership Program. This is a County SOC program.

Intensive Outpatient and case management. This program is for juvenile probation youth at risk of out of home placement and emphasizes individualized care approaches, particularly for older youth on an emancipation track, and for families unable to participate in the Wraparound process. Services are provided in collaboration with the Juvenile Division of the Probation Department. This is a County SOC program.

Evening Center is a collaboration between the Juvenile Division of the Probation Department and CBHSAS. It is a detention alternative with focused treatment programming, that serves as an immediate response for probation involved youth who are struggling with mental health/substance abuse problems, failing to comply with conditions of probation, and/or as a response to new violations. The program operates Monday through Friday from 4p - 8p. Each Saturday youth participate in a community

work project. Transportation is provided to and from the program and meals are served each evening.

Juvenile Hall Services include crisis, assessment, brief treatment and substance abuse psychoeducation for youth detained in Juvenile Hall. This is a County SOC program.

Probation Programs and Initiatives is a link to a complete list of grants, projects and collaboratives with the Santa Cruz County Probation Department.

4. Social Service Programs

County Social Services - These teams provide intensive outpatient services to children and youth ages 0 – 20 who are in foster care, group homes, or are at imminent risk for being removed due to abuse or neglect. The teams seek to provide support and effective treatment to assist youth who are involved in the child welfare system. They strive to maintain foster home stability and support reunification, whenever possible, and permanency for youth. Referrals to this team are made by social workers from the Family and Children's Services Division.

Families Together (Encompass) is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team of services providers that work with families at risk for child abuse and neglect in Santa Cruz County. Families Together focuses on reducing the number of re-referrals to Family and Children's Services Division by improving safety, child development, and family relationships.

Transition-Age Services (Encompass) – Transition Housing Program/Independent Living Program (THP/ILP) assists current and former foster and probation placement youth aged 15-21 to develop independent living skills and achieve educational/vocational goals to successfully transition to self-sufficiency. These SOC services focus on providing transitional housing and related support services for social service and probation youth approaching their 18th birthday and "aging out" of the system.

Parents Center provides counseling services to children, youth and families referred by the Family and Children's Services Division. This is a Contract SOC & EPSDT program.

5. Community Programs – County Services:

Community Gate provides intensive outpatient, case management and psychiatric services for children and youth who have moderate to severe mental health needs. This team works closely with families, schools and the other supports involved in the lives of children and youth. Our goal is to enhance their emotional well-being, reduce mental health symptom and impacts these may be having, and to support healthy lifestyles. Children's ACCESS, a part of the Community Gate team, provides over the phone navigation and referrals to those seeking behavioral health services for children and youth with full scope Medi-Cal. This is a County SOC program.

Contract Services:

Volunteer Center - Family Partnership Program is a parent-run program that provides peer support, education, and advocacy for families within our system of care. This is a Contract SOC program.

Encompass provides a variety of mental health and substance abuse outpatient services, which function as early intervention and/or "step-down" from more intensive services. These are Contract EPSDT programs, funded in part by MHSA-PEI.

- a. **Youth Services** offers counseling in North and South county offices, at school sites and in the community.
- b. **Escuela Quetzal High School** provides support services to help students make positive changes in their lives.
- c. **Tyler House** and **Crossroads** are Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) for youth ages 14 – 17, referred by Probation or Social Services.
- d. **Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)** are intensive home or community based services that address targeted behavioral issues in order to avoid initial or subsequent out of home placement.

Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) provides counseling services and substance abuse services to Pajaro Valley Unified School District students and Watsonville youth, as well as probation-related services. This is a Contract EPSDT program.

Parents Center provides counseling services to children, youth and families in both North and South County, and to youth referred by the Family and Children's Services Division. This is a Contract EPSDT program

6. School Treatment Programs (SOC)

Children's Behavioral Health is contracted by the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) to provide Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) to Special Education eligible students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

PVUSD is a single district Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). They oversee and provide educational services for district students with an IEP.

PRIOR VERSIONS: January 10, 2018; February 4, 2011

REFERENCES: Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) 5600.3; U.S. Government Code Section 7572; Education Code Section 56026 (c)(4); CCR Title 9, Chapter 11, Section 1810.215

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS: