

Community Action Treatment Team (C.A.T.)



Outreach Services

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What is the Children's Community Action Team?

The CAT team is a group of professionals committed to providing intense behavioral health services and support to youth and families. Our professionals assist with the development of healthy family structure, maintaining youth in their home and community is the program priority.

The team provides family-centered culturally competent services individualized according to the strengths and needs of each youth or young adult and his/her family with a goal of supporting and sustaining the youth or young adult in his/her family system, or the least restrictive and most clinically appropriate environment. <u>Family commitment and participation are essential and expected.</u>

The team also provides a full range of behavior health services including case management and mentoring, in order to stabilize and strengthen the family to fully function on their own successfully in the community. The whole family embraced in care and family commitment and participation is essential and expected.

The CAT team works as a multi disciplinary team to deliver the majority of the behavioral health treatment required by each youth and family; in addition, the team assists the family in developing a natural support network, which may include but is not limited to extended family, friends, educational programs, cultural or volunteer groups and religious organizations. Family is interpreted broadly to include foster parents, caregivers and guardians.

Program Goals

To provide intensive community based services to youth and their families that will strengthen the family system, resulting in youth living at home and successfully in the community.

- Improve school related outcomes such as attendance, grades and graduation rates.
- Decrease out-of-home placements.
- Improve family/youth functioning.
- Decrease substance use/abuse.
- Decrease psychiatric hospitalizations.
- Transition into age appropriate services.
- Increase health and wellness.

Eligibility

Youth and young adults 11 to 21 years are eligible for CAT team services that have a mental health or co-occurring mental health substance use disorder diagnoses with accompanying characteristics such as:

- Being at risk for out-of home placement as demonstrated by repeated failures at less intensive levels of care
- Having two or more psychiatric hospitalizations or repeated failures.
- Involvement with the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- Multiple episodes involving law enforcement.
- Poor academic performance and/or suspensions

Length of Service

The average length of services will be 3-9 months, however, services continue for as long as the youth/young adult and family need the level of services provided or until the young adult reaches age 22.



Referrals can be made to the C.A.T. program by calling (321) 726-2860
*Funded by the State of Florida