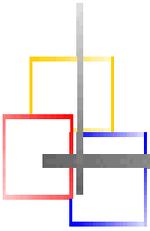


HealthChoices Management Unit and Community Care Behavioral Health Welcomes:

Holcomb Behavioral Health System

*To our network for **Telepsychiatric* Services***



The goal of this partnership is to provide psychiatric care in situations where services would otherwise be prevented or delayed due to location or timely availability of resources.

About Holcomb Behavioral Health System: Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems has contracted with Community Care Behavioral Health to provide Telepsychiatry Services to identified residents of York and Adams Counties. Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems is a private, nonprofit corporation providing comprehensive behavioral health services including interventions for mental health, substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and intellectual/development disorders.

Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems has been accredited by the Joint Commission since 2000. The service philosophy which guides Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems is the belief that every individual has the right to develop his or her fullest potential. Holcomb recognizes the uniqueness of each individual and promotes feelings of dignity, a sense of self-worth and the right to make informed choices. Services are developed and provided for each person with recovery principles in the forefront, supporting an individual's efforts towards wellness and self-determination. Individualized services are implemented in a manner which is culturally competent and which focuses on the individual's strengths, needs, abilities, interests and desires. To facilitate the efficacy of services, all services are provided in the least restrictive, least intrusive environment which is appropriate for an individual's needs. All services are delivered based on evidence-based practices, as applicable.

Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems will provide telepsychiatry services at its affiliate agency:
Family Child Resources, 3995 East Market Street, York, PA 17402

Telepsychiatry services requires the involvement of a master's level clinician to assist the consumer at the client site. This assistance includes support with the use of the equipment, education regarding service, crisis intervention, support with referrals for other services and any other interventions that require face-to-face interaction. The psychiatrist and telepsychiatry clinician work as an integrated team, enhancing the overall support of psychiatric service. For individuals that require formal evaluations are provided to the client's referral source or court for issues such as level of care recommendations, evaluations can be provided within a maximum period of 5 days.

Who is an appropriate referral for this service?

Individuals targeted for telepsychiatric services include:

- Those with a serious and persistent mental health diagnosis
- Those eligible or likely eligible for Medical Assistance
- Individuals unable to access services of their choice in a timely fashion
- Individuals without appointments for medication management prior to exhausting available medications.

And meet one of the two identified vulnerable populations as our priority populations for this service:

- The adult forensic population includes persons in, or recently discharged, from correction facilities that are re-entering the community with limited medications that may not last till the first available appointment with a local psychiatrist and adults who are currently in a treatment court
- Children or youth involved the juvenile probation or child welfare systems who need court ordered psychiatric evaluations to assist in determining a level of care

If available, services may be offered to individuals with an urgent need for psychiatric services but do not fall into the above two priority groups. We plan to coordinate closely with Community Care Behavioral Health, local CRISIS providers and other system partners to identify others who may be appropriate.

Referrals will be made by Juvenile Probation, Adult Probation, MH-IDD, or Service Access & Management directly to Holcomb via their referral line or by faxing the referral form.

Connecting to Ongoing Services: Telepsychiatric services in our community will be a useful method to address one-time only psychiatric appointments in response to court ordered evaluations or to address member needs in a timely manner until they are able to transition to ongoing, local outpatient services.

While telepsychiatry is an appropriate alternative to traditional psychiatric therapy, it is important for members to connect with a psychiatrist who is able to provide face to face therapy. Therefore, we have selected Holcomb Behavioral Health Services to offer telepsychiatric services as a bridge until members are able to obtain appointments with a local psychiatrist. When needed, Holcomb will coordinate with a member's chosen local outpatient clinic to ensure a seamless transition between providers.

***What is Telepsychiatry?**

Telepsychiatry is the application of telemedicine to the specialty field of psychiatry. The term typically describes the delivery of psychiatric evaluations and medication management through secure, real-time videoconferencing. Telepsychiatry services allow quality, clinical communication between a psychiatrist at a remote agency location to provide clinical interventions at an agency location convenient to the client. The primary influence behind the use of telepsychiatry in the United States has been a national shortage of psychiatrists, particularly in specialty areas such as child and adolescent psychiatry.

Why have we added it to our system of services in York County?

Long waits for appointments with a psychiatrist has prompted the York/Adams HealthChoices Management Unit to develop this platform for delivery of services. According to a 2012 Children's Hospital Association survey, appointments for child and adolescent psychiatric care far exceeds the prevailing benchmark of a two-week wait time in children's hospitals. The average wait time is 7.5 weeks. Locally, the wait can exceed 90 days.

Recent turnover in the county has also pointed to a need for an innovative approach to meeting the needs of our residents. In the last year, at least 6 psychiatrists serving York County HealthChoices members have left our area. Not all of these vacancies have been filled. Recruiting psychiatrists has been difficult for our local providers. The national shortage of psychiatrists is only expected to get worse. More than half of psychiatrists are older than 55, unlike other higher-paying specialties like cardiology or orthopedics. In 2011, there were 16 psychiatry residency programs in the U.S. that did not fill their open spots, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Our current resources for serving our population are stretched to their capacity. Growing numbers of people eligible for medical assistance has caused membership in HealthChoices to rise. In 2011 the average enrollment in York County was approximately 46,000 members. Today it tops 55,000. That is just under a 12% increase.