

York / Adams HealthChoices Management Unit

York County Human Services Center
100 West Market Street, Suite B-01, York, Pennsylvania 17401-1332
☎ : (717) 771-9900 • Fax : (717) 771-9590

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Date: September 8, 2015
To: Licensed Mental Health Outpatient Providers
From: Mark B. Durgin, Director of Program Development
RE: Provision of Satellite Outpatient Services within a School Setting

SOLICITATION OF INTEREST

The York/Adams HealthChoices Management Unit (HCMU), Community Care Behavioral Health Organization (Community Care), and the Central York School District (the District) are soliciting letters of interest from licensed outpatient clinics interested in delivering satellite outpatient services on the District's campus in York, Pennsylvania for students enrolled in its middle and high school district buildings.

According to data collected by the District, there is an estimated 1,810 students enrolled in the District-wide Free and Reduced Lunch Program. The current total student body for the middle and high schools are approximately 2,800. According to available data, it is estimated that 34% of youth eligible for Medical Assistance had a least one behavioral health or substance use disorder claim between 7/15/14 and 3/31/15. In addition, according to 2015 data collected from the District's nursing department, the most common behavioral health diagnosis is ADHD and ADD. Next are Anxiety and Depression disorders, followed by Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Bipolar Disorder. Central York School District reports of the youth who have an encounter with the Student Assistance Program, and whom are recommended for outpatient counseling, only 50% attend therapeutic counseling. The District covers a vast urban and rural area of York County and many students may reside several miles away from outpatient services. Our desire is to increase the opportunity for students to receive clinically appropriate mental health treatment in a least restrictive setting.

Program Expectations:

- All treatment should be guided by the use of recovery based approaches and supports.
 - This approach includes implementation of the most promising approaches for a member who is diagnosed with a behavioral health illness.
 - Intervention strategies should attempt to improve the member's quality of life as well as alleviate his/her symptoms.
 - This should be accomplished by a clinician that is appropriately supervised by senior clinicians or psychiatrist or other appropriately trained clinicians.

- The provider should be able to provide the outpatient mental health treatment year round, as behavioral health treatment needs traditionally do not end during the summer months.
- Members should be scheduled for their first clinical appointment within seven (7) calendar days of their request to be seen.
- Providers are expected to offer appointment times that will meet the member's needs, including evening and/or weekend appointment times to accommodate those who work, attend school, or are otherwise unable to attend appointments offered during traditional office hours.
- Providers must have the ability to deliver services at the frequency deemed clinically appropriate for outpatient, including group if appropriate, or a referral should be made for other services.
- It is expected that a child under the age of 18 and the member with a serious mental illness will have a family session offered within 15 days of the initial treatment since the family tends to be the primary support/caregiver for our members.
- The York/Adams HealthChoices Management Unit and Community Care Behavioral Health have a strong desire to have an effective family component that includes family therapy and frequent communication and engagement with the family as appropriate.
- Providers must also have the ability to make referrals for psychiatric evaluations if the member presents with a diagnostic picture that might benefit from medication intervention or if the member presents with significant diagnostic complexity to support a psychiatric evaluation.
- The provider should coordinate with the schools as appropriate. This may include educating school personal regarding school based outpatient and the referral process.
- There should also be an internal referral mechanism for school-based outpatient related to working collaboratively with school services and the Student Assistance Program (SAP), if appropriate.
- The District would also request that that the therapist(s) working in the school have all clearances on file and updated per regulations.

Services delivered to students enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program will be reimbursed based on current outpatient service rates established by the HCMU and Community Care. Services delivered to students who are not enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program must be reimbursed through other funding sources such as commercial insurance carriers or private pay arrangements. It is preferable that the provider have the ability to offer services with payers beyond Medical Assistance. The District is committed to providing the necessary space your agency would require for licensure; a desk and locking filing cabinet, and; access and availability of this space during evenings and throughout the entire calendar year (except for Fridays during the summer vacation period).

Submission Requirements

Interested parties must submit a letter of interest to the HealthChoices Management Unit no later than 4:30 pm on Thursday, October 15, 2015. Letters shall not exceed three (3) pages and include the following:

1. Identification of a contact person, including Name, Title, Phone Number, Fax Number, and E-mail Address.
2. A narrative description including:
 - a. Your agency's experience with delivering outpatient services within a school setting. (No more than two (2) paragraphs)
 - b. If you are not currently delivering services in school, please outline your plan to meet the performance standards established by Community Care. (No more than one (1) paragraph)

- c. Please provide information on your knowledge or involvement in York County, or Central York School District. If there is no current knowledge/involvement, how will your agency integrate or become educated on the needs of the target population. (No more than one (1) paragraph)
 - d. Anticipated staffing need. (No more than two (2) paragraphs)
 - e. Your agency's plan to offer and provide individual as well as family sessions during evening hours as well as throughout the entire calendar. Explain how you will engage families in treatment and your expectations for working with families. Please identify what percent of services you anticipate being delivered as family sessions. (No more than one (1) paragraph)
 - f. Your agency's current relationships with non-MA insurance carriers and/or willingness to establish relationships with non-MA insurance carriers in order to prevent this service from being limited to only those students enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program. (No more than one (1) paragraph)
 - g. Your agency's plan for identifying the need for and providing access to psychiatric time. (No more than (1) paragraph)
 - h. Identify your plan to ensure that outpatient services are the most appropriate level of treatment and that other services are not already being delivered. How will you ensure that individuals needing higher levels of care receive it?
 - h. Other relevant information that should be considered. (No more than one (1) paragraph)
3. Based on your past experiences, please provide a very brief timeline on your proposed implementation schedule, including any meetings with the district your agency may feel is necessary as well as the licensing process. (No more than one (1) paragraph)

Letters or emails shall be addressed to the following person:

Mark B. Durgin, Director of Program Development
Y/A HealthChoices Management Unit
100 W. Market St., Suite B-01
York, Pennsylvania 17401
(717) 771-9900
mbdurgin@yorkcountypa.gov

Sincerely,

Mark B. Durgin

Mark B. Durgin,
Director of Program Development

Cc: Michelle Hovis, Executive Director, York County Human Services
James Myers, Regional Director, Community Care
Robin Nace, Network Manager, Community Care
Robert Grove, Assistant Superintendent, Central York School District.