



The Children's Behavioral Health Initiative is an interagency initiative of the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services whose mission is to strengthen, expand, and integrate Massachusetts state services into a comprehensive, community-based system of care to ensure that families and their children with significant behavioral, emotional, and mental health needs obtain the services necessary for success in home, school, and community. Six services – described below – have been developed and implemented to meet this mission.

Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) is delivered by a Community Service Agency (CSA) and provides care coordination through the *Wraparound* care planning process for youth under the age of 21 who have been diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance (SED). A Care Coordinator works with the youth, family/caregiver(s), supports, providers, schools, state agencies, and others who play a key role in the youth's life. The Care Coordinator works with those identified to facilitate the development of a care planning team for the youth, and together this team comes up with an Individual Care Plan to address the youth's needs and support the goals identified by the youth and family/caregiver.

Family Support and Training (FS&T) provides a structured, one-to-one, strength-based relationship between a Family Partner and a parent/caregiver of a youth under the age of 21. The purpose of this service is for resolving or ameliorating the youth's emotional and behavioral needs by improving the capacity of the parent/caregiver to parent the youth. FS&T aims to improve the youth's functioning in the community or support the youth's return to the community via work with the caregiver. Services may include education; assistance in navigating the child-serving systems (DCF, education, mental health, juvenile justice, etc.); fostering empowerment, including linkages to peer/parent support and self-help groups; assistance in identifying formal and community resources (e.g., after-school programs, food assistance, summer camps, etc.); and support, coaching, and training for the parent/caregiver.

Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI) is the youth-serving (under the age of 21) component of an emergency service program (ESP) provider. MCI provides a short-term service that is a mobile, onsite, face-to-face therapeutic response to a youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis for the purpose of identifying, assessing, treating, and stabilizing the situation and reducing immediate risk of danger to the youth or others consistent with the youth's risk management/safety plan, if one exists. This service is provided 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and includes: a crisis assessment; development of a risk management/safety plan, if the youth/family does not already have one; up to 72 hours of crisis intervention and stabilization services including: onsite, face-to-face, therapeutic response, psychiatric consultation, and urgent psychopharmacology intervention, as needed; and referrals and linkages to all medically necessary behavioral health services and supports, including access to services along the behavioral health continuum of care. For youth who are receiving Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), MCI staff will coordinate with the youth's ICC Care Coordinator throughout the delivery of the service. MCI also will coordinate with the youth's primary care physician, any other care management program, or other behavioral health providers providing services to the youth throughout the delivery of the service.

In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) addresses a youth's (under the age of 21) behaviors that interfere with successful functioning in the community. Services are delivered by one or more members of a team consisting of professional and paraprofessional staff via a combination of Behavior Management Therapy and Behavior Management Monitoring.



Behavior Management Therapy includes a behavioral assessment (observing the youth's behavior, antecedents of behaviors, and identification of motivators) and the development of a highly specific behavior plan with interventions that are designed to diminish, extinguish, or improve specific behaviors related to the youth's behavioral health condition(s). Supervision and coordination of interventions, and training other interveners to address specific behavioral objectives or performance goals are provided.

Behavior Management Monitoring includes implementation of the behavior plan developed by the Behavior Management Therapist as well as monitoring of the youth's behavior and reinforcing implementation of the behavior plan by the caregiver(s). Also included is progress reporting back to the Behavior Management Therapist on implementation of the behavior plan and progress toward behavioral objectives or performance goals so that the behavior plan may be modified as needed.

Therapeutic Mentoring Services (TM) are provided to youth (under the age of 21) in any setting where the youth resides, such as the home (including foster homes and therapeutic foster homes), and in other community settings such as school, child care centers, or respite settings. TM offers structured, one-to-one, strength-based support services between a therapeutic mentor and a youth for the purpose of addressing daily living, social, and communication needs. Therapeutic Mentoring services include supporting, coaching, and training the youth in age-appropriate behaviors, interpersonal communication, problem-solving and conflict resolution, and relating appropriately to other children and adolescents, as well as adults, in recreational and social activities. TM promotes a youth's success in navigating various social contexts, learning new skills, and making functional progress in the community.

In-Home Therapy Services (IHT) is a structured, consistent, strength-based therapeutic relationship between a licensed clinician and the youth (under the age of 21) and family for the purpose of treating the youth's behavioral health needs, including improving the family's ability to provide effective support for the youth to promote their healthy functioning within the family. Interventions are designed to enhance and improve the family's capacity to improve the youth's functioning in the home and community and may prevent the need for the youth's admission to an inpatient hospital, psychiatric residential treatment facility, or other treatment setting.

For more information, go to MassHealth's web site, www.mass.gov/masshealth/childbehavioralhealth, or to MBHP's web site, www.masspartnership.com. You may also call MBHP's Community Relations Department at 1-800-495-0086, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.