

Department of Mental Health Child, Adolescent and Family Unit

Policy

Referrals to the Case Review Committee (CRC) for Residential Treatment or Assessment For Children/Youth in the Custody of Their Parents or Guardians

When a local team conducts a Coordinated Service Plan regarding a child or youth with a primary diagnosis and issues related to mental health, and the outcome is a referral to a residential treatment or assessment facility, a Designated Agency (DA) representative needs to participate even if that child is receiving the majority of services from the private sector. The DA representative must have the authority to make referrals to the CRC through the Department of Mental Health (DMH). A child or youth must be an open client to the DA and have a completed assessment by the DA to determine the mental health treatment needs and recommend a treatment plan prior to a referral to the CRC. The DA needs to determine if they can supplement the treatment plan that has been provided in order to keep a child or youth in the community. The expectation of DMH is that the DA has had the opportunity to provide additional services to a child and family prior to a referral to residential and is in agreement that the clinical presentation of the child can only be addressed in a residential setting. DMH's Residential Placement Criteria outlines the issues to consider before and during a referral to residential treatment. The child or youth must also be eligible and enrolled in Medicaid prior to placement.