



## **Considering Family Based Services?**

### **How to Determine Medical Necessity and Referral to HOPE Network**

Family based services are available to children, ages 0-21, who are at risk for out-of-home placement, such as: hospitalization, residential treatment, foster care, etc. (Family based services may also serve as a step down service for children returning to their families from placement.)

The goals of family based services include, but are not limited to: assisting families in making positive, long-lasting changes that will enable children to remain within their homes and to improve the quality of life for each family member.

Entrance criteria for family based mental health services include:

- Psychiatric Evaluation (DSM 5 diagnosis)
- Less intensive services have been provided without improvement
- The child is returning home from an outside placement
- Less intensive service would prove to be insufficient or inaccessible

***The referral must include the referral/pre-cert form and a letter or evaluation stating medical necessity for this level of mental health care, signed by the qualified evaluator/physician.*** Approval of the referred person will be sought by our agency or the provider of your choice, with the FCBHA or managed care organization, however approval is not guaranteed. If authorization is denied for this level of care, the organization denying this service will inform the family of suggested alternative options.

Family based mental health services include clinical, crisis, case management and other family support services, offered by a team of clinicians who serve no more than 8 families (per team) at a time and whose plan of care is child centered and family focused. Services in the family based program are available 24 hours, 7 days per week; treatment lasts up to 32 weeks (8 months) with high intensity and frequency.

This service is voluntary and is provided to the family in their home, school and community, working with the entire family to maintain children in their own household. Families are expected to be actively involved in developing and working toward goals for treatment.

The HOPE Network maintains strict confidentiality regarding family information, treatment and documentation and observes HIPAA regulations, respecting the family's rights and informing consumers of their responsibilities according to the laws which protect their privacy.

*Referrals can be faxed to 724-437-1875, Attention: Jody Johnson, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, Program Manager. Any questions or concerns about a referral or family based mental health services, the HOPE Network, or any service that Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services has to offer can also be directed to Jody at 724-437-0729 x759.*

For crisis intervention services any time, do not hesitate to call 724-437-1003.