

Medicaid Funded Mental Health Treatment for Children
Bonnie Adee, Children's Mental Health Bureau Chief
November 30, 2007

How does a youth become eligible for Medicaid funded mental health services?

- Family income under 100% FPL OR
- Youth determined disabled and family income qualifies OR
- Youth determined disabled and in out-of-home treatment more than 30 days OR
- Youth in the custody of the state (CFS) OR
- Youth is in foster care situation OR
- State exercises placement authority for out-of-home treatment (court) AND

Youth qualifies as seriously emotionally disturbed (SED), according to state definition AND
Treatment is medically necessary

What services are covered by Medicaid to treat youth with SED?

- Psychiatric inpatient hospital care
- Psychiatric residential treatment
- Therapeutic group care
- Therapeutic foster care
- Therapeutic family care
- Community based psychiatric rehabilitation services (1:1 aide)
- School based treatment
- Targeted youth case management
- Psychiatric assessment
- Outpatient therapy (individual and group)
- Physician services, including psychiatrist
- Psychiatric medication

What additional services are available to Medicaid eligible youth with SED?

- Respite
- Supplemental Services (i.e. room and board; non-medical transportation; etc.)
- Multi-agency planning through Kids Management Authorities (KMAs)
- Waiver services (limited locations) such as in-home therapy and wrap around supports

Why do some youth receive mental health treatment in the Juvenile Justice system but not outside of it?

- Family/youth doesn't qualify for Medicaid and lacks (adequate) mental health coverage
- Youth's aggressive symptoms are not addressed/controlled, and the family is fearful
- Youth does not meet SED definition and otherwise can't access treatment.
- Youth has failed in/been removed from previous treatment settings and is not accepted in treatment.