

The purpose of the ISPT meeting is to review the recommendations made by the psychologist or psychiatrist, discuss current behaviors/symptoms that the child is exhibiting and to identify and discuss treatment goals to be addressed through Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) and other services. This is also a time to discuss if there are any additional behavioral health services that would benefit the child and his/her family such as case management services, school based interventions, specialized outpatient care, family therapy, etc. The information presented at the ISPT meeting is then used by VBH-PA to determine whether BHRS are the most appropriate mental health services to address the child's symptoms/behavior.

The initial Inter-Agency Service Planning Team (ISPT) meeting includes, at a minimum, you (the parent), a county representative, and a VBH-PA Child, Adolescent and Family Services (CAFS) Coordinator. At the discretion of the parent(s), a child under the age of 14 may or may not attend the meeting. Children aged 14 and over need to be present at their ISPT meetings. In addition, you may invite additional people who could be helpful in discussing your child's behaviors, including family members, school personnel, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Juvenile Probation staff, Supports Coordinator, etc. The evaluator (Independent Prescriber) will be invited. You or any other team members may choose to participate in the meeting in person or by telephone.

The CAFS coordinator or county representative will lead the meeting and ask questions to gather information about your child to ensure that the services requested are the most appropriate for your child's symptoms. The CAFS coordinator will gather information and ask questions to make certain that medical necessity* criteria are present for authorization of the requested services.

* "Medical Necessity- Clinical determinations to establish a service or benefit which will, or is reasonably expected to:

- Prevent the onset of an illness, condition, or disability;
- Reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental, behavioral, or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury, or disability;
- Assist the individual to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the individual and those functional capacities appropriate for individuals of the same age."

Necessary paperwork for the meeting includes your child's evaluation, the Plan of Care Summary, the ISPT Summary form, the Family Choice form, sign-in sheet, and Service Delivery schedule. This is referred to as the "packet".

You will be given a list of service providers and asked to choose a provider at your meeting.

* Medical necessity criteria definition is quoted from "COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HealthChoices of Behavioral Health Program Programs Standards and Requirements-Primary Contractor"
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