



SUMMER THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (STAP) for Value Behavioral Health-Pa (VBH-Pa) Members

- ✚ Summer Therapeutic Activities Program (STAP) is a service that uses group treatment as a way to deliver medically necessary mental health treatment. These services provide a range of age appropriate therapeutic activities with professional staff trained in the delivery of mental health treatment.
- ✚ STAP services generally appear very similar to typical summer camps; however, the STAP daily activities are designed to address mental health needs that are identified for each child. STAP typically group youth with similar needs together, in order to work within the groups to teach skills that help children be successful in every day life. Activities may address social skills, friendship building, learning to make good choices, problem-solving, anger management, teamwork and other needs. Daily STAP activities are designed to be recreational, engaging and fun, typically using craft projects, physical games, and individual and group counseling in treatment.
- ✚ STAP is for children and adolescents under the age of 21. (Please refer below to the last bullet for more information on how to obtain a list of STAP providers in your area.)
- ✚ STAP is a mental health treatment, and as such must be prescribed by an Independent Prescriber as one of a child's recommended behavioral health services. (An Independent Prescriber is a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist who is part of the VBH-Pa Independent Prescriber network and will evaluate a child to see if he/she meets medical necessity criteria for STAP services.)
- ✚ A child does not need to be receiving other Mental Health services in order to be prescribed STAP.

- ✚ STAP usually operates in two separate 5-week sessions from June to August. Children may be authorized for one session only, except in extreme cases when two sessions are medically necessary. Hours of operation typically range from 2 to 6 hours per day.
- ✚ STAP staff are trained professionals uniquely qualified to work with children with behavioral health issues. One of the goals of STAP is to have children participate in group activities and to learn to find support from their peers in that environment. STAP have staffing ratios that are designed to meet the needs of the youth in their program; therefore, additional staff such as TSS should not be needed. Please note that additional services outside of STAP hours typically continue as prescribed.
- ✚ Transportation is not provided by the STAP. The child may be driven to the program by a parent or other designated adult. If that is not possible, the parent may ask the STAP provider to help arrange transportation through the Medical Assistance Transportation Program in their county. Parents may also contact their local County Mental Health Office for assistance (Please see below for contact information).
- ✚ For assistance in obtaining STAP or other Mental Health Services, please call either the VBH-PA Member Toll Free Phone Line at 1-866-404-4561, or the County Mental Health Office:

Mercer County MH Office: 724-662-2230

Crawford County MH Office: 814-373-2647

Venango County MH Office: 814-432-9100

**** Parents/Guardians have the right to choose any STAP provider in the VBH-Pa network, even if the child currently receives BHRS from a different provider. Parents/Guardians may choose another provider without impacting the services the child is currently receiving. Please note that not all mental health providers offer STAP, and parents/guardians may need to contact another BHRS provider for the child to attend the STAP. However, the child can continue to work with the current provider for the other BHRS services. ****