



Community-Based Care Partnership Serves Florida's Children and Families

Magellan Behavioral Health of Florida, Community-based Care (CBC) of Seminole County, Inc., and the CBC lead agencies created the CBC Partnership to provide high-quality integrated care and services for children in the Florida Child Welfare System.

A Successful Life and a Permanent Home

In 2004, the Florida legislature approved the Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan (CWPMHP) to provide mental health services to neglected and abused children in the child welfare system. The CWPMHP ensures that services are provided that prepare these children for a successful life and permanent home. In 2007, the CBCs chose Magellan Health Services as the managed care organization—and their partner—in the CBC Partnership.

Since its inception, the CBC Partnership has more than tripled the number of children it serves and has almost doubled the amount of services provided across the state. The Partnership works with an average of 21,000 children each month, providing approximately 300,000 service units, including assessments, inpatient care, outpatient and residential care. This comprehensive system of care brings innovation, quality programs, clinical expertise and solid experience with managing mental health services and costs to the child welfare system.

Flexible, Coordinated Care Helps Stabilize Children and Families

The CBC lead agencies serve as the link between 398 mental health network providers and the CBC Partnership, advocating for the right services to stabilize children and their families. Magellan provides the clinical expertise to shape mental health care through care management approaches and information systems infrastructure to support the system.

The lead agency conducts case conferences with family members, child advocates, providers, community and family supports, legal representatives (including “guardians ad litem”) and mental health providers to determine what services best address the needs of each child. This process provides a first line of review for services—and assures that everyone involved in the community is reviewing the child.

Effective communication and coordination ensures flexibility and alignment of mental health and permanency plans. For example:

- **Expanded Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care (STFC) Authorization.** Magellan extended the authorization period for the STFC level of care to give the CBC Partnership and providers the opportunity to gather more clinical information to assess progress.
- **Unified Concurrent Review (CCR) and Child Welfare (CW) teams.** Magellan’s CCR team develops a synopsis of high-risk cases and engages the CW team, which reviews each case and includes the points of contact (POCs) from the associated CBC agency to gather information, resolve unanswered questions and unite forces in the best interests of the child. POC staff members facilitate multidisciplinary teams, ensure appropriate and expedited service, and monitor and track the children—no matter where they are living in

the state. The Magellan teams and the POCs continue to work together to formulate a plan that best meets the needs of the child and is aimed at improving well-being and tenure in the community.

Innovative Programs Ensure Targeted Care, Continuity and Accountability

The CBC Partnership’s innovative programs provide continuity of care and stability, promote positive behavioral health outcomes for children and enable quick access to a full array of services. Some examples of these services are listed below.

- **Targeted case management and wraparound services** meet individual needs and facilitate essential services for children.
 - Integrated psychiatric and medical care
 - Medication management
 - Onsite services at school and at home
 - Outpatient services
 - Therapy
- **Access to a range of services**, such as 72-hour crisis respite care, reduces use of the clinically unnecessary “Baker Act” for involuntary commitment.
- **Mental health services are integrated into children’s permanency plans**, increasing reunifications and adoptions—which doubled from 1,500 in 1996 to 3,000 in 2009.
- **State-of-the-art monitoring and outcomes reporting tools** ensure that quality-of-care standards are met. Web-based systems assist in tracking and trending service quality and delivery.

First-Class Support for Caregivers and Providers

We help caregivers focus on children’s well-being by providing the right support, including:

- **Training for guardians and “guardian(s) ad litem”** assists adults working with children in the child welfare system.
- **Ongoing outreach and support for foster and adoptive families** through local Foster Parent Associations helps providers and CBCs identify service gaps and provide technical assistance to foster families.

The CBC Partnership also offers frequent learning opportunities to help providers stay current on the most up-to-date, effective services. This includes ongoing provider training on industry-leading topics, such as the latest evidence-based treatments, trauma-informed care and co-occurring disorders, encouraging recovery and resiliency in children and turning a child’s behavioral health assessment into a road map for success.

More Information

For more information about the CBC Partnership and its services, visit www.flchildren.org.