



PROCEDURE

Title/Subject: Service Population and Eligibility Criteria - Mental Health Services			
Policy #: OPS - 201	Page 1 of 2	Adoption Date:	Revision Date: 4/25/08
Approved By:		Title: Executive Director	
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Mental Health services are designed to assist the child, adult and family in coping with life's demands and losses with the goal of improving functioning in the home, school and community. Professional staff work with the individual to identify and treat biological, psychological and social challenges that impede an individual's ability to function and relate to other in his or her world.

Any child, adult or family residing in Sarasota County who are experiencing traumatic loss or events, family violence, or difficulties interacting with others are eligible for services. Clients eligible for Mental Health services include, but are not limited to, those with children who exhibit:

- ✓ Neurological impairments
- ✓ Behavior or emotional problems
- ✓ Physical or sexual abuse and neglect histories

Children's Mental Health: Children birth through thirteen (13) years of age are eligible for services. We specialize in infant and young children's mental health. Individual, family, dyadic and group therapy services are provided in the home or school, as well as our center. Children at risk of discharge from child care, school or an out-of-home placement are eligible for our Behavioral Support services.

At initial contact with the parent or other referral source, eligibility for services is reviewed and an initial screening is performed. Based upon the urgency of need, the potential client is either given an appointment time or placed on a waiting list for services. The potential client is given an approximate timeline for when services may be available. If the potential client is unable to wait for services or is in need of services we are unable to provide, staff will provide the person with information on other services available to them in the community. The client will also be assisted in accessing any services they might be eligible for that are provide through our service network.

A description of our array of service programs, including eligibility criteria and target population, are provided to all clients and potential clients of The Florida Center. A clear description of fee schedules and fee adjustment procedures for all services are provided to new clients at the time of enrollment. No client is refused service solely on the basis of the individual's inability to pay.

Priority for service is given to individuals, children and families based upon the urgency of their needs. Potential clients are never screened for any reason other than urgency of need in order to ensure equitable treatment of all persons who come to us for care.