

BRIDGES TO HEALTH

Parsons Child & Family Center is a Health Care Integration Agency serving 17 New York state counties (Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Regis, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties). Bridges to Health (B2H) is a Medicaid Waiver Program designed to supplement the NYS Medicaid plan services to foster care youth, their families, and their caregivers. Services begin when a child or youth is in an eligible foster care setting and may continue postdischarge from foster care. The goal of the program is to support youth as they reach their highest level of potential, attain permanency, and develop social and emotional competencies that provide for healthy, permanent families.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Each youth and family is assigned a health care integrator (HCI) who:

- Conducts a collaborative assessment of strengths and needs of the child and family
- Completes an individualized plan of care for and with youth and family
- Offers a trauma informed menu of services designed to support personal development in social and emotional competencies and promote affect regulation
- Provides advocacy and system navigation
- Supports the child to remain in his or her home community or least restrictive living environment

Each youth and family is provided services by Parsons Child & Family Center or approved agencies in their own communities. These 13 waiver services include:

- Skill building
- Special needs community advocacy
- Family caregiver supports and services
- Day habilitation
- Prevocational services
- Supported employment
- Planned and crisis respite to provide relief for the child and family
- Crisis avoidance management and training
- Immediate crisis response services
- Intensive In-home supports and services
- Adaptive and assistive equipment
- Accessibility modifications

BENEFITS

- Increase positive interaction between parents and caregivers and children
- Improve parent and child wellness and social connectedness
- Prevent child abuse and neglect

Who can access services?

- Youth and families in foster care placements of 12 beds or less or on trial discharge
- Youth who are Medicaid eligible
- Youth with qualifying diagnoses serious emotional disturbance, age 19 or younger; developmental disability age 21 or younger, or with medical fragility age 21 or younger..

How are services accessed? Youth are referred to B2H by the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) or Department of Juvenile Justice and Opportunity for Youth (DJJOY). For more information on B2H services or referrals, please contact Heather Wells, Director, at 518.426.2806.

When are services available? Staff work flexible hours to accommodate families' needs and availability. Crisis services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.