

*The Family Crisis  
Intervention Unit / Program*

The Mental Health Association of  
Monmouth County

MHAMC

# *Historically*

- Family Crisis Intervention Units were first established in 1982 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-76
- Since the establishment of FCIUs, The Monmouth County FCIU was run by The Monmouth County Family Court Division
- For 2006, The Youth Services Commission was allocated funds by the Juvenile Justice Commission to contract The Family Crisis Intervention Units to an out-of-court agency
- The Mental Health Association of Monmouth County was awarded the FCIU contract as of January 3, 2006

# *Currently*

- **The Family Crisis Intervention Unit / Program** adheres to all Rules of the Court and complies with all established guidelines outlined in the Juvenile/Family Crisis Operations Manual (<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/family/jfcopmanual.pdf>)

# *Family Crisis Intervention Unit / Program Goals*

- To provide a 24 hour crisis intervention service to juveniles and their families
- To divert cases involving family crisis from the courts through counseling and referrals
- To provide families with counseling, guidance and/or referral assistance needed to stabilize the immediate crisis

# *Appropriate Referrals to FCIU*

## *Definition of a Family Crisis*

*Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A:22g*

- A serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of a juvenile OR
- A conflict between a parent or guardian and a juvenile regarding rules of conduct which has been manifested by a repeated disregard for lawful parental authority by a parent or guardian OR
- Unauthorized absence by a juvenile for more than 24 hours from his home OR
- A pattern of unauthorized absences from school by a juvenile

## *Case Presentation*

- Referred juveniles/families may present with one or more of the issues outlined in the definition of a Family Crisis
- Example: A juvenile may be truant from school, not following household rules, staying out all night and engaging in activities involving drug and alcohol use

## *FCIU provides:*

- Telephonic Intervention which consists of intervention, recommendations, and referrals as needed
- Face to face conferences with the family within 24 working hours from initial contact
- Behavioral Contracts with recommendations needed to stabilize the family crisis
- Referrals to appropriate services, such as Wrap-Around, individual/family therapy, drug / alcohol services, other community based services, as appropriate
- Case monitoring for up to 3 months, which includes contact with family, school and other pertinent service providers

# *Referral Sources*

- Law Enforcement
- Family Court
- Municipal Courts
- Schools
- Mobile Response
- Families and Friends
- Private Therapists
- Other Community agencies
  - Hispanic Affairs Resource Center
  - Mercy Center

# *Inappropriate Referrals to FCIU*

- Abuse and neglect- (DYFS)
- Homicidal or suicidal ideation- (Screening)
- Custody/visitation matters-(court)
- Developmentally disabled cases-(DDD)
- Crisis arising from DCBHS/OCS placement-  
(Mobile Response)

# Additional referral sources other than FCIU:

- Referral to emergency health or mental health service
- DYFS if suspect abuse or neglect
- Referrals pursuant to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act
- Family Court Intake where acts constitute juvenile delinquency
- Other agency referrals as necessary- such as Mobile Response

# *Juvenile-Family Crisis Petitions*

## *(2A:4A-83,84)*

- Must show the exhaustion of all community services
- Jurisdiction extends to juvenile and parents or guardians
- Must provide recommendations for services to the family

# *Out of Home Placement Petition*

## *(2A:4A-87,88)*

- Only petition the court, if unable to locate a voluntary placement for the identified juvenile
- Must document alternative placement, such as Project Open House or shelter
- Must exhaust all appropriate services

# *After Hours Protocol*

- After hours crisis calls are first received by staff of the Youth Detention Center
- Family, Police or other agency will call the after hours number at YDC (732) 431-7280 and
  - report a family crisis and their need to talk with a crisis counselor and or
  - a situation defined above will be described and YDC staff will refer the family to the MHAMC Juvenile/ Family Crisis Program
- Once a Crisis call is received by YDC staff, appropriate contact information (name and phone number of family in crisis) will be given to the on- call MHAMC Juvenile Family Crisis Counselor

# *After Hours Protocol (cont.)*

- YDC staff refer to the monthly on-call calendar to contact the assigned FCIU counselor
- The Primary FCIU counselor on call will contact YDC staff within 20 minutes of their initial outreach to receive contact information regarding the crisis
- If YDC staff does not get a return call within 20 minutes from the primary on call counselor, they can then contact the FCIU Secondary staff person as assigned on the After Hours Schedule
- MHAMC submits a monthly schedule to YDC by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for the upcoming month

# *Documentation/Accountability*

- Running log- daily entries and disposition
- Intake documents- critical/family information
- Progress notes
- Contracts
- Crisis Intervention Monthly Report-AOC, Family Court Judges, Youth Service Commission
- Affiliation Agreements-community based service providers
- MHAMC- trend analysis, planning, program adjustments
- Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

- *The Mental Health Association Family Crisis Intervention Unit / Program would like to thank you for your time and support.*