



In recent weeks, the stability of the public behavioral health system has been under intense scrutiny in other parts of the state. Stakeholders have questioned the ability to meet the needs of children in the custody of social services. At Vaya, we recognize that the system is not perfect, but we also know that the best solutions come from open dialogue and collaboration. With that in mind, we want to share some good news related to current efforts and initiatives:

- The Intercept program is an integrated, trauma-informed approach that uses evidence-based practices to meet individualized needs. Designed to help families with children at high risk of entering foster care or in state custody, the program focuses on intensive in-home parenting skills and mental health services for children and their families. Services are provided in the family's home and community, not an office. To date, more than 900 families have participated in the program.
- For children awaiting placement in foster care or a higher level of care, emergency respite beds are available to all counties Vaya serves. Care Haven in McDowell County and Interlude Respite in Buncombe County are accepting referrals, and a third facility is in development in Jackson County. An additional program, developed in early 2020 with Carolina Therapeutic Services, offers rapid response respite beds through therapeutic foster care homes to ensure children and adolescents have a safe, stable place to stay until a more permanent placement can be established.
- The Caiyalynn Burrell Child Crisis Center, a facility-based crisis and detox program available to all Vaya counties, is the only program of its kind in the region and only the second statewide. The 16-bed facility serves children and teens who need crisis stabilization services and 24-hour supervision due to a mental health crisis, substance use or withdrawal from drugs or alcohol. It also provides crisis care to young people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

We recognize that needs often outpace available services. Because of that, we continually seek opportunities to add to or expand our ongoing initiatives. Here are a few of the efforts currently in development:

- In partnership with Access Family Services, we are piloting a program to train therapeutic foster care parents in Applied Behavior Analysis to provide services and supports to children with autism.
- Through a pilot program with Thompson Family Services, we are implementing a Treatment Foster Care Oregon model as an alternative to institutional, residential and group care

placements for children and youth ages 3 to 17 with severe emotional and behavioral disorders.

- Internally, we are developing tools to assist DSS offices in identifying placement resources and escalating issues through Vaya channels when systems are not working as they should. We are also seeking opportunities for Vaya care managers to be co-located in DSS offices where space is available.

Input from stakeholders is a critical component when exploring new services or programs, and we want you to join the conversation. Vaya's roots run deep in your county, and we want to continue to work together for the health and wellbeing of your residents. What is important in your county? How can we collaborate to better meet the needs of those we collectively serve?

Our county relations representatives will be reaching out to you soon to request a meeting. We hope the information shared in this message conveys both our hope and commitment to moving forward together. Thank you, and we look forward to meeting with you soon.