

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

DMHSAS Info Memo 2009-05

Date: November 10, 2009

Index Title: Consolidation of
Children's Services at the State
Mental Health Institutes

To: Listserv

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From: John Easterday Ph.D., Administrator
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Subject: Consolidation of Children's Services at the State Mental Health Institutes

Document Summary

Due to ongoing low census, child and adolescent services at the state mental health institutes (Mendota and Winnebago), will begin consolidating in December 2009. Specifically, on December 1, 2009, two Winnebago Mental Health Units, the Children & Adolescent Psychiatric Service (CAPS) and the Adolescent Treatment and Recovery Unit (ATRU) unit, will merge into one unit. On February 1, 2010, the Children's Assessment and Treatment Unit (CATU) at MMHI will be consolidating into a single unit located at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. Services for children (ages 10 and under) will continue at one location - the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. The Mendota Mental Health Institute (MMHI) will continue to serve adolescent males, while the Winnebago Mental Health Institute will continue to provide Dual Diagnosed MH/AODA services (Anchorage Unit) and other specialty services for children and adolescent males and females. This decision reduces and consolidates child and adolescent beds at the state mental health institutes in order to continue providing quality and cost effective services.

Background

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) as part of its ongoing review of bed utilization at both Mendota Mental Health Institute (MMHI) and Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) has determined that children's beds have been underutilized over the past year. In addition, recent state budget and legislative changes may be contributing to the actual and projected decline in civil patient census, especially in the decline in children's bed utilization at both Mental Health Institutes. Based upon the decline in bed utilization and the need to keep the rate for services at the MHIs at appropriate and cost effective levels, the decision has been made to consolidate children's services at Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

Transition Plan for Children

Beginning January 1, 2010, children (males and females, age 10 and younger) needing inpatient psychiatric services in the state mental health institutes will be directed to the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. Adolescent males age 11 or older will continue to be admitted to the Mendota Mental Health Institute. Mendota staff will work with the respective counties concerning transition planning for any children (age 10 or younger) needing placement outside of Mendota prior to the February 1, 2010 closing date of the CATU.

For further information about admissions of children or adolescent males to MMHI, please contact:

Cindy Ebsen

Telephone: (608) 301-1141 or (608) 444-0748.

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Winnebago Mental Health Institute are committed to working with each county to provide specialized inpatient services for children and adolescents. In addition, the WMHI Anchorage program will continue to provide AODA / MH services for youth statewide.

For further information about admissions of children to WMHI, please contact Renee Dewitt at telephone: (920) 235-4910, extension 2527, or Erin Sarauer at Telephone: (920) 235-4810, extension 2360

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