

## **Informational Webinar for Hospitals on the Specialized Family Support Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Can SFSP services be extended, upon need?**

Youth receive a 90-day Specialized Family Support Program (SFSP) eligibility segment. No eligibility extensions will be authorized.

### **Can SFSP services transition to FSP services?**

Though SFSP youth have access to all FSP services during the 90-day SFSP enrollment period, SFSP families may apply for eligibility determination for the Family Support Program (FSP) but must adhere to the application and eligibility determination process as outlined in 89 Ill. Admin. Code 139. FSP eligibility is for a 180-day period and may be renewed if eligibility criteria continue to be met.

### **Can you give an example of crisis stabilization services beyond the usual SASS safety planning?**

Throughout the assessment process, the youth's assigned SFSP Coordinator will be responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing an individualized plan to stabilize and support the SFSP youth and family. The individualized plan should ensure that the youth and the family are able to access community mental health services and crisis supports including collaboration with other treatment providers and crisis systems such as: community-based mental health services eligible for reimbursement under the Illinois Medical Assistance Program, the youth's Managed Care Organization if applicable, Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS), Intensive Placement Supports (IPS), the hospital treatment team, and other outpatient service providers as needed.

### **How do community-based services help if there is a reasonable safety concern about the youth coming home?**

SFSP connects youth and their families with the most appropriate clinical services, while focusing on returning the youth to the home and family by delivering treatment in the least restrictive setting. SFSP youth are able to access the full array of HFS community-based behavioral health services, as outlined in the [Community-Based Behavioral Services Fee Schedule and Handbook](#).

### **How many 90-day beds are there available through SFSP?**

Youth participating in SFSP have access to FSP residential treatment services, subject to prior authorization and continued stay review, pursuant to Title 89, Ill. Admin. Code, Section 139.140 (a) and 139.220(b).

**I was under the impression that the family had to agree to take home the child/finding an alternative placement which is what I thought CCBYS did for the family. You said if CCBYS wasn't successful they'd go back to DCFS who would then make referral for SFSP. I'm**

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**confused by that because CCBYS only calls DCFS if the family refuses to take the child. Please clarify.**

The DCFS Child Abuse Hotline is notified when a youth is determined to be at risk of custody relinquishment. If the youth is between the ages of 11 and 17, a CCBYS provider is contacted to work with the family to stabilize the family unit and to reunite the family. If CCBYS is unable to successfully stabilize the family, CCBYS will refer the case back to DCFS. If DCFS determines the youth is not otherwise abused or neglected, DCFS will refer the family to SFSP by contacting the CARES line. CARES will accept SFSP referrals only from DCFS or a Department approved DCFS agent. Through the CARES intake process, the CARES staff will link the SFSP youth and their families with a local SASS provider, who will respond to the SFSP youth's location to perform a 24-hour non-emergent crisis screening and assessment, consistent with SASS protocols for youth admitted to an inpatient psychiatric inpatient facility. The family will then be assigned to an SFSP Coordinator to continue to assist the family with the SFSP process, documentation, and accessing services.

**If parent declines taking child home, how long will it take for youth to receive services?**

The parent must agree to take the youth home or to find an appropriate alternative community placement in order to be eligible to receive services through SFSP. If a parent declines to take the youth home or find an appropriate alternative community placement, the SFSP Coordinator will refer the case back to DCFS. If a parent is willing to take the youth home, upon completion of the SFSP Intake Process, the SFSP Coordinator coordinates the immediate delivery of short-term, intensive mental health and family support services necessary to stabilize the youth in the community.

**What are some examples of the programs that would be funded under SFSP but would not be covered by the regular SASS funding?**

Youth enrolled in SFSP have access to the full array of services described in the Community-Based Behavioral Services Fee Schedule, including the FSP Family Support Services of Individual Support Services and Therapeutic Support Services. SFSP youth also have access to services provided by other agencies such as CCBYS and IPS.

**What efforts are being made to develop capacity for SFSP beds?**

Though SFSP youth have access to FSP residential treatment services, the Department is working to develop transition bed services through the establishment of short-term crisis beds for SFSP youth.

**Will family have a point of contact during time of approval?**

Yes, SFSP youth and their family will have a dedicated point of contact in the SFSP Coordinator; the SFSP Coordinator will assist the family in completing the necessary paperwork as part of the intake process, identifying and coordinating community services for the youth and may also

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help the family in identifying and applying for other programs that may provide support beyond the 90-days of SFSP eligibility, such as the Family Support Program.