

Specialized Family Support Program (SFSP) Overview



Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act

P.A. 98-0808

Law requiring HFS, DCFS, DHS, DJJ, DPH, and ISBE to develop an Interagency Agreement, establishing a pathway for youth at risk of custody relinquishment to receive services through the appropriate child-serving agency.



Youth at Risk of Custody Relinquishment

A youth whose parent(s) or guardian(s) refuses to take the youth home from a hospital or similar treatment facility because the parents or guardians have a reasonable belief that the youth will harm him or herself or other family members upon the youth's return home, and there is no evidence of abuse or neglect.



Psychiatric Lockout

A situation that occurs when a parent or guardian refuses to accept a youth back home or find other suitable habilitation arrangements following an inpatient psychiatric hospitalization stay, resulting in the youth remaining at the inpatient facility beyond medical necessity with no clear path for the hospital to achieve a successful discharge.



Specialized Family Support Program

- 90-day program providing crisis stabilization, community mental health and assessment services, treatment recommendations, and service linkage to youth at risk of custody relinquishment;
- Administered by HFS, DCFS, and DHS, supported by DJJ, DPH, and ISBE; and
- Built upon existing State programs (SASS, ICG, CCBYS, and IPS).



SASS / ICG

- **Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS):** a multi-departmental crisis intervention program that screens and assesses children in psychiatric crisis and provides up to 90-days of crisis stabilization and follow-up mental health services.
- **Individual Care Grant (ICG):** an HFS-administered program that provides funding for intensive community-based mental health services or residential treatment for children with serious mental illness.



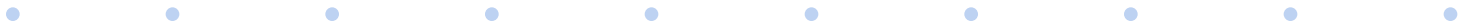
CCBYS / IPS

- **Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services (CCBYS):** a DHS-administered program that provides services and supports to children ages 11-17 who are at risk for involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice system.
- **Intensive Placement Stabilization (IPS):** a DCFS-administered program that provides placement stabilization services to a targeted group of children who are under DCFS custody or guardianship and placed in foster care.



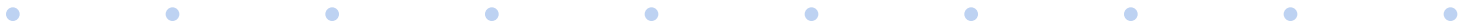
SFSP Goals

1. Prevent youth from entering the child welfare system solely to access behavioral health services;
2. Provide crisis stabilization services to youth and their families;
3. Determine the most appropriate treatment services a youth needs through a comprehensive and standardized assessment process; and
4. Link youth and families to the right level and intensity of services in a timely manner.



Who is eligible for the SFSP?

1. Illinois residents;
2. Under the age of 18;
3. Experiencing a Psychiatric Lockout situation;
4. Reported to the DCFS Hotline as a Youth at Risk of Custody Relinquishment;
5. Who are not under the custody or guardianship of a governmental entity; and
6. Whose parent/guardian agrees to meet terms of parent participation.



SFSP Intake

- DCFS Hotline is notified of a psychiatric lockout situation.
- For youth ages 11-17, CCBYS has 48 hours to attempt to stabilize the situation with the family.
- If CCBYS is not successful, DCFS will refer the family to the SFSP by contacting the CARES line. CARES will only accept SFSP referrals from DCFS.
- CARES will make a referral to the SASS program.
- SASS will perform a face-to-face crisis assessment within 24 hours.



Parent Participation Requirements

- Completion of SFSP Parent Agreement and Multi-Agency Consent to Disclose Information.
- Willingness to transition the youth back into a home or community setting.
- Complete and help gather all necessary paperwork.
- Assist in identifying and coordinating funding of services from all available sources, including insurance coverage.
- Assist in applying for public assistance programs, as applicable.
- Actively participate in the youth's treatment, including regular communication with assigned SASS agency.

Covered Services

- Case management
- Community-based mental health services provided by a CMHC possibly qualifying for funding under the Medical Assistance program
- Family support services
- Therapeutic support services
- CCBYS or IPS supports
- In development: crisis beds for transition



The SFSP Coordinator

- Assigned to youth in SFSP through a local SASS agency;
- Primary case manager for youth and families in SFSP;
- As appropriate, coordinate treatment services with HFS contracted Managed Care Organization (MCO); and
- Responsible for coordinating the youth's care, service provision, linkage, and completion of the SFSP Assessment Report.



SFSP Coordinator Activities:

- Hospital discharge plan
- Crisis Safety Plan development
- Mental Health Assessment and Treatment Plan
- Parent education
- Complete and submit SFSP Assessment Report



SFSP Assessment Report

Completed by the SFSP Coordinator and includes administrative and clinical information about the SFSP Youth:

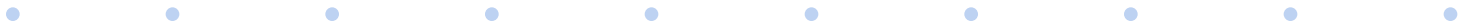
- MHA and other relevant assessment/evaluation materials;
- 12 month summary of treatment;
- Other supporting documents as needed; and
- Treatment recommendations for after SFSP –

Submitted to the Interagency Clinical Team (ICT).



Interagency Clinical Team

- Multi-agency senior management team:
 - HFS, DCFS and DHS, supported by DJJ, DPH and ISBE, as needed;
- Responsible for administration and oversight of the SFSP;
- Review SFSP Assessment Reports and Case Staff Meetings, upon request; and
- Responsible for facilitating access to ongoing treatment based on the recommendations in the SFSP Assessment Report.



Contact Information

HFS Bureau of Behavioral Health Help Desk

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Questions?

