

Integrated Care

Partners North Carolina System of Care Expansion Grant

The grant builds on two of Partners' initiatives:

- **System of Care**: nationally-known program that brings child and family serving agencies together with the family to develop and implement services in the child's best interest; and
- **Whole Person Integrated Care**: an innovative model, which combines behavioral care, physical care, and peer support in one setting.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: How will this program help communities?

A: The program will serve children and families through area pediatric medicine and community partnerships by offering parenting classes, care coordination, and family and youth peers to assist families. Partners will work closely with the NC Division of Mental Health/ Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services and NC Families United in support of grant implementation.

Q. What types of care will be offered?

A: Partners' Whole Person Integrated Care model offers youth and their families: Access to peers and family navigators that help them discuss issues and needs not normally addressed during treatment: A time banking program to assist families interested in offering services or tasks to others in the time bank, and ways to address social determinants of health challenges (things that prevent people from wellness) that may impact the family.

The Positive Parenting Program is an evidenced based treatment that helps parents strengthen parenting skills.

High Fidelity Wraparound is a high intensity care coordination model for youth and families.

Buffering Toxic Stress uses trauma informed interventions and self-care for parents.

Transitions to Independence is a system of interventions that prepare youth and young adults ages 14-29 to transition into adult roles.

Q: Where can children and families receive care?

A: Partners and other community partners will begin implementing the program in Gaston and Lincoln Counties in spring 2018. The program will be offered in Burke and Iredell counties starting in 2019.

Q: Who is eligible for care?

A: The grant will serve youth ages birth to 22 years old and their families. The youth must have a diagnosis of Serious Emotion Disturbance (mental, emotional, and behavior problems that severely disrupt a person's ability to function socially, academically, and emotionally, as diagnosed by a clinician.) A broad range of services is often necessary to meet the needs of young people with SED and their families. We believe with proper treatment and social supports, these youth can become healthy, productive members of society.

In addition, youth who are at risk for a first episode of psychosis, which is the first time someone experiences psychotic symptoms or a psychotic episode, may be eligible.

The grant will also focus on individuals and families who have experienced two or more of the following:

- trauma (abuse, neglect, trafficking); along with mental health substance use;
- Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- two or more mental health or substance use hospitalizations (a stay in a psychiatric facility)
- child welfare involvement; or
- involvement with the N.C. Division of Juvenile Justice.

Q: How is this program funded?

A: Partners is the only North Carolina recipient of one of nine grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Program, also known as the Children's Mental Health Initiative. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) distributes funding to improve outcomes for children, youth and young adults who experience serious emotional disturbances and their families.

The grant will provide \$1 million per year over four years to add new mental health resources for children and families residing in four counties in the Partners' service area.

Who to Contact in Partners NC System of Care Expansion Grant

Lachelle Freeman, MA
SAMHSA Grant, Project Director
Partners Behavioral Health Management
901 S. New Hope Road
Gastonia NC 28054
704-884-2609 (Office)
412-953-0252 (Cell)
lcfreeman@partnersbhm.org