

San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Criteria for Entry to Child/Youth Services

This document describes the diagnostic, level of impairment, focus of intervention, and risk factors that are taken into consideration by San Mateo County BHRS clinicians when determining whether behavioral health services, provided within the Division or by its subcontractors, are appropriate for and should be made available to a child or youth. The criteria vary for different insurance categories due to limited resources within public behavioral health and its primary role as a mental health plan for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and as a safety net for those who have no resources. These criteria are not meant to replace individual clinical judgment, which always guides decisions about entry to the behavioral health system. Cases that do not meet these criteria but appear to present overriding clinical concerns should be reviewed with the Medical Director and the Deputy Director of Child and Youth Services to determine appropriate disposition.

Eligible Categories of Children/Youth

- Children/Youth with Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or Healthy Kids insurance who meet State-defined medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services, including services to child/youth with SED.
- San Mateo County wards and dependents.
- Child/Youth determined to be for Educationally Related Mental Health Services
- Child/Youth in psychiatric crisis (generally eligible for services).

The following information summarizes factors that must be taken into consideration when determining an individual's eligibility for County Behavioral Health Services

- Included Diagnosis, typically one or more of the following:
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorder (except Autistic Disorder)
 - Attention Deficit and Disruptive Behavior Disorders
 - Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders
 - Mood Disorders
 - Anxiety Disorders
 - Eating Disorders
 - Impulse-control Disorders not classified elsewhere
 - Adjustment Disorders
 - Personality Disorders, excluding Antisocial Personality Disorder
 - Other Disorders of Infancy, Childhood or Adolescence
- Current Degree of Impairment (at least one of the following)
 - Either a significant impairment in an important area of life functioning, or

- A probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning, or
 - There is a probability that the child will not progress developmentally as individually appropriate.
- Degree of risk as demonstrated by at least one of the following factors:
 - Significant risk of out of home placement (including inpatient) or failed school placement.
 - Past/present psychiatric emergency visits and hospitalizations that indicate a high probability of current risk, unrelated to substance abuse, medical conditions, or cognitive impairment.
 - Significant degree of current risk for self-injurious behavior or injury to others as a result of an included diagnosis, as demonstrated by:
 - Recent serious thoughts off harming self/others, or
 - Recent significant injurious behaviors.