



Community Action Teams for children and families funded by Florida Legislature

We're excited we can use our experience and skills to make real, measurable differences for kids who could fall through the safety net without the CAT Teams.

Basic description

10 CAT teams are named in the funding document released by the Florida House of Representatives (pp. 69 and 70): Manatee Glens, Circles of Care, Life Management, David Lawrence Center, Child Guidance Center, Apalachee, Institute for Child & Family Health, Mental Health Care, Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services and Peace River.

The teams will provide community-based services to children aged 11 to 21 who have mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses.

Eligible children are at risk for out-of-home placement, poor academic performance, or multiple hospitalizations. Each team can accept up to 40 children each year for six to nine months of care. 24/7 availability

All children eligible will have a family the team will surround with services. That means each team's impact will actually be 140 or more people depending on the size of the family.

There is some misinformation—children on Medicaid or private insurance ARE eligible, contrary to a recent rumor.

10 people, 8.75 FTEs: clinical director, psychiatrist/ARNP, nurse, master's therapists, case manager, mentors, administrative support.

\$675,000 per team

Can provide services not usually covered by Medicaid or insurance such as respite care, parent mentoring, camps or after school activities as incentives...

The Gracepoint advantage

Gracepoint has a long history of serving children and families in their homes, at school—wherever they are. Those services resulted in measurable improvements for children and the families.

Both teams will be following Manatee Glens' model. Together we serve a very large, urban area. We will draw strength and expertise from one another—recruiting, training, learning and improving because of our collaboration.

The need is critical. We are already getting calls from schools, courts, district attorneys and children's crisis units. There is no shortage of referrals.

We are hiring certified and licensed staff for our CAT Teams. The Legislature has given us through mid-August to hire, train our teams and begin enrolling families. We will meet that expectation.

Our teams will serve Pinellas and Hillsborough counties

We were selected because of the number of children in crisis in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Children's Crisis Services evaluates children threatening to harm themselves or others.

- MHC Children's Crisis Services screened 1,900 children from 7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013.
- PEMHS Children's Crisis Services screened 1,295 children and the Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility screened 190 children in the same period.
- Total: 3,385