

Pathway Family Center

Plan for Agency Response to Host Home Association

This plan contains general guidelines concerning Pathway Family Center, and its staff, response to the Host Home Association. Included in this plan are policies and procedures for staff, expectations for parents, and suggestions about situations after treatment hours for clients.

Preface and Waiver

The Host Home Association (hereinafter referred to as the HHA) is organized and operates as a separate legal entity and is not affiliated with Pathway Family Center. A client, his or her parent(s), and other family members will not be coerced to participate in the aspect of housing other clients. Therefore, it is a voluntary participation with that particular component. However, client's parent(s) are expected by PFC to adhere to other aspects of the HHA (See appendix entitled "Host Home Association: New Parent Information and Host Home Waiver").

Basic Assumptions

1. Each parent, legal guardian, or the person who has custodial care of the child (defined as a minor under 18 years old) is responsible for the health and welfare of their child. Specific responsibilities include providing adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical care (cited in the Child Protection Law, Act No. 238, Public Acts of 1975, as amended, being sections 722.621-722.636, MCL).
2. Each client under 18 years of age is expected to be living at the home of the parent, legal guardian, or the person who has custodial care of the child. Living at the home is defined as residing in that home, each day, seven days a week for the entirety of treatment. A client's program therapist must be notified if a living situation changes or if there is any threat to that arrangement. However, it is the agency's belief that an initial respite period for the client and other family members is beneficial at the onset of treatment. This period provides a time for the crisis to subside and offers the opportunity for each family member to focus on themselves.

3. Recovery from a drug addiction, chemical dependency, and substance abuse occurs in the "We". In other words, recovery is based within a context of unity that derives from adherence to spiritual (not religious) principles such as collaboration, support, caring and understanding.
4. The Pathway model is a self-help model.

The Host Home Association (HHA)

The HHA is comprised of two committees, each with separate, yet inter-related purposes and objectives. Each of these committees are comprised of members of the parent group who are voted into the committee for a period of 6 months. The committees are similar to trusted servant positions in 12 Step, self-help programs, so the filling of these positions are staggered. Nominations and elections are held and a majority vote from the parent group is needed to elect a person to each of these committees. A parent or other adult has to have been involved with Pathway for at least 3 months in order to be nominated. A business meeting is held, after an agenda has been posted for two weeks in advance, and quorum is established when 50% of the total client population is represented. Each parent or other adult, regardless of household or number of children in the program, has one vote.

Parent Board Committee (PBC)

This committee is comprised of parents or adult family members. The number of committee members is based on a one(1) for every ten(10) parents ratio. It is responsible for meeting with the Executive Director on a monthly basis in order to plan short and long-term operational objectives, Booster Club activities, and make recommendations for improvement of the services as provided by the agency.

Host Home Committee (HHC)

This committee is comprised of 3 parents or adult family members. It is responsible for coordinating the after-treatment hours activities of a client. This includes permissions, assistance of parents through their level system, parent sponsorship, and the temporary housing of first level clients and clients on higher levels for whom their parents live out of the area (including out of the state of Michigan). A notarized "Delegation of Parental Power" is needed for any minor who is not residing at their parent's home and a copy is needed for the HHC and the client's program

therapist (See appendix entitled "Delegations of Parental Power") 1.

Pathway Staff: Roles and Responsibilities

Pathway staff will assist the HHA in the following ways:

In regards to the PBC, staff will meet with this committee monthly and will implement changes to the agency and the services it provides based on the feedback from the PBC. Minutes of these meetings will be kept by the PBC and the Executive Director. The Clinical Director will be informed of relevant items during the weekly management meetings with the director.

In regards to the HHC, staff will not conduct placement of clients. Staff will provide professional support in any of the following ways:

1. With an appropriately authorized release of confidential information form, staff will communicate any special considerations on a right-to-know basis. Special considerations are medical issues, progress in treatment, alcohol and other drug cessation reactions, emotionality, etc. In the event of suicide or homicide precautions, a more elaborate and appropriate plan will be made by the Clinical team (eg., hospitalization). The information will be shared with the HHA, "host parent(s)", and the client's parent(s).
2. Family sessions will be held bi-weekly and can include the "host family".
3. Parents will be seen by the client's program therapist within one week of admission for bi-weekly parent sessions that will eventually become family therapy upon a client earning "Talk and Responsibility".
4. A peer staff will be responsible for ~~after-treatment~~ hours permissions, will utilize a permission protocol, and will forward the permissions for approval or denial by the HHC. The peer staff will meet with the HHC at least once per week and will be supervised by the Peer Supervisor (or equivalent) and receive support as needed by the Clinical Director.

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5. A professional staff will have the responsibility for the facilitation of coping-skills, problem-solving, decision-making, and treatment participation of the parents via the weekly Parent Support Group. Once a month, an "Amends and Concerns" agenda will be held during the group so that HHA issues can be raised and resolved. Also, within this group, parenting skills and taking care of oneself will be the major focus. Again, we will strive for parents helping parents.

Notes:

1. Be aware that the exact form varies from county to county and that a parent needs to check with their county's juvenile probate court and that they may consider advice from an attorney.