
Who We Are

DMHAS – Young Adult Services (YAS) was developed to help young adults transition successfully from the Dept. of Children & Families (DCF) to the adult mental health system and to achieve the necessary skills for adulthood. YAS also transitions youth directly from Court Support Services Division (CSSD) and Beacon Health Options.

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Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the lives of young people by providing the highest quality services possible. We do this by forming a partnership with the individual, their family, identified significant persons, and with other community service providers. By doing so we create a “community of care” that fosters mutual respect and individualized client centered treatment.

Who We Serve

In order to be considered for Young Adult Services, an individual must be between the ages of 18 and 25 often with a history of DCF involvement. They must also have a history of a major mental health problem.

YAS Program Locations

Young Adult Service programs have been developed at community mental health agencies throughout Connecticut.

What We Do

Our goal is to provide the types of supports our clients will need to make their journey to adulthood successful. Types of supports include mental health treatment, employment support, life skill development and housing assistance.

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Trauma Sensitive Treatment

Many of the young people who have been referred to us have experienced trauma, including neglect and physical, and/or sexual abuse, and as a result, may suffer from associated symptoms. Because of this, all aspects of our services are trauma sensitive and built upon the principles of trauma treatment.

Client Centered Approach

We believe that young adults with mental health difficulties and other problems, can be helped to achieve and maintain stability if given the right support, guidance, education, treatment, and skills. The best way to begin this process is to collaborate with DCF, CSSD or Carelon prior to an individual’s 18th birthday and develop a service plan together with the individual. The active involvement of the client, their family, and the community in the development of the recovery plan is essential to success.

Program Services

YAS program services are community based, supporting the individual in their own residence. Services include clinical, case management, educational and/or employment supports and residential assistance.

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Clinical Services

Thorough clinical assessment, medication evaluation and management, individual/group therapy, and skill development focus on individual needs.

Case Management

Program staff meets with each program participant regularly to provide support, and coordinate services that will help address their needs and meet their goals. There is a strong focus on life skill development.

Residential Services

A variety of residential supports are provided in our programs, including transition services with short-term availability of staff up to 24 hours per day / 7 days per week. Staff typically visit clients in their apartments in order to assist, teach, and support them in activities which foster independence.

Educational/Employment Services

Supportive educational and employment services are available to each program participant. Each participant is expected to work or attend an educational program.

Perinatal Support Program

Provides in-home prenatal education, Doula certified labor and delivery supports, postpartum supports, and in-home parenting education services.

Consumer Comments



"Young Adults Services gave me a safe place to live and staff who really care about me. Because of that, I'm able to work on myself and start a life that I really want."

Current YAS Client

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the help of my case manager and my therapist. They believed in me. Two years ago, I was going nowhere and my life was a mess. Now, I have a decent job, I'm planning to get married, and I feel great about myself."

YAS Program Graduate



Our Leaders

- Amy Marracino, LCSW, Section Chief
- Jennifer Abbatemarco, LCSW, MBA, Director of Operations
- Kristen Russell, LCSW, Director of Utilization and Quality Management
- Daniel Brockett, Ph.D., Clinical Director

Clinical Assessment and Consultation Team

- Steven Pierce, Psy.D.
- Nancy Fredine, Ph.D.
- Erin Hughes, Psy.D.
- Samantha Tynan, Psy.D.
- Joseph Lang, Ph.D.

Evaluation, Monitoring, and Consultation Team

- Robert Donovan, Ph.D.
- Mary Beth Jordan, LMFT
- Vatsala Kucharski, Psy.D.
- Stephanie Zanker-Rivera, LPC, Director YAS Parenting Program
- Indre Fishman, LCSW
- Cindy McGrath, LCSW
- Michael Magaldi, LCSW
- Delmaliz Montes De Oca, LCSW

- Maggie Berniak, Administrative Assistant
- Rose Ciaudelli, Secretary I

For additional information, contact Young Adult Services at (860) 262-6988.



Young Adult Services

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Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

A HEALTHCARE SERVICE AGENCY



Young Adult Services

*"Healthy People, Healthy Communities.
Let's Make It Happen!"*



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