

Policy Number: 0030
Policy Title: Priority Access to CSB
Services
Date Adopted: June 24, 2020

Purpose

To ensure that a system is in place for defining who should have priority access to services of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders, developmental disability, or co-occurring disorders.

Policy

It is the policy of the CSB Board to provide guidance in identifying populations who should have priority access to services of the CSB. Defining priority access to services is a necessary and critically important process to ensure compliance with state and federal codes and regulations. Guidelines for assigning priority access need to take into consideration and include those individuals whose needs cannot be addressed except through a public system such as the CSB, which provides and coordinates multiple levels and types of services to help individuals gain a level of independence and self-determination. Effective and efficient use of resources is an inherent requirement for all CSB services.

CSB Priority Populations

In all cases, to be eligible for CSB services, an assessment will need to be done with a CSB clinician.

Individuals and families who have private health insurance coverage and can access nonemergency/non-acute services privately will be asked to seek those services when they are available in the community. In these instances, the CSB Entry and Referral Services staff will assist in identifying resources, linking with potential non-CSB sources of services, and following up with referrals. If similar resources are not available in the community, individuals with private insurance will be screened for priority using the same criteria as is used for those without insurance. It is not necessary for an individual to have a social security number to qualify for CSB Services.

Services to the Whole Community

The following CSB services are provided to all residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church:

- Wellness, health promotion and prevention services
- Peer support services
- Crisis and emergency services (by phone and walk in at Merrifield 24/7)

- Telephone and walk in screening/assessment are available by phone and walk in at Merrifield (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Services for Mental Health Conditions, Substance Use Disorders, and/or Developmental Delays/Disabilities

CSB services are designed for individuals whose condition significantly impacts their ability to manage daily activities of life.

The CSB offers services to individuals with the mental health conditions, developmental disabilities/delays, and substance use disorder. Here is a more specific description of those served by the CSB:

A. Individuals with mental health conditions

Mental health conditions involve a change in thinking, mood and/or behavior. These conditions can affect how we relate to others and make choices.

1. **Adults:** Adults with serious mental illness (SMI). Examples include schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder and borderline personality disorder. The CSB assesses individuals for service based on the severity of the mental health condition and impact on daily life, as opposed to the individual's diagnosis
2. **Children and Adolescents:** Children and adolescents with mental health conditions, behavioral health problems and those children and adolescents who are at risk of serious emotional disturbance. These issues are often significantly disabling compared to the functioning of most youth their age.

B. Individuals with substance use disorders

Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes significant functional impairment, such as health problems and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.

Note: Special priority is afforded to a pregnant woman using substances, anyone who uses drugs by intravenous injection (IV) and any individual who uses any type of opioid, including prescription pain medication.

C. Individuals with Developmental Disabilities or Delays

1. **Adults and Children: Individuals who have mental and physical impairment such as** autism spectrum disorder or intellectual disability, other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness. Individuals must meet the diagnostic criteria for a Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver.

Services for those meeting the criteria below will be provided in the following order of priority access:

1. Individuals who are currently receiving CSB services will continue in service if they continue to meet the criteria for services.
2. Pregnant women and any individual who uses drugs by injection (IV) or who uses any type of opioid, including prescription pain medications.

3. Individuals who meet the criteria for services and who have serious needs that cannot be met elsewhere or who do not have alternative resources such as the ability to access community providers, financial resources, insurance, or family supports.
4. Individuals who have the above resources and who can receive needed services with community partners may be referred to providers in the community based on a screening or assessment by a CSB clinician. This applies to individuals who are seeking services via walk in screening and assessment and/or through Emergency Services, Crisis Care, Fairfax Detoxification, etc. as well as individuals who no longer meet medical necessity criteria for CSB services; and therefore, no longer require a CSB level of care.

References:

- ✦ Federal Block Grant
- ✦ Guidelines for Assigning Priority Access to CSB Services document approved by the CSB Board on December 2014

Approved *Sheila Jonas*
CSB Board Secretary

June 24, 2020
Date

Policy Adopted: March 20, 1991
Revision Adopted: September 29, 1993
Revision Adopted: July 27, 1994
Revision Adopted: November 18, 1998
Revision Adopted: May 23, 2001
Revision Adopted: December 17, 2014
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