

Mental disorders are one of the most prevalent illnesses affecting youth today. Much of the research today supports the notion that mental illness contributes greatly to both mental and physical long-term health issues and as a result has a great impact on societal costs. According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), half of all lifetime cases of mental health disorders had begun by age 14 and three quarters have begun by age 24. It is crucial that early identification and intervention are a part of mental health treatment systems of care in efforts to decrease both short- and long-term morbidity while improving outcomes.



We are committed to restoring hope and changing lives...

Charlotte Behavioral Health Care
CAT Director, Tammy Allshouse, LMHC

(941) 347-6499 (phone)

(941) 347-6494 (fax)

Crisis Center (941) 575-0222
Recovery Center (941) 347-6444

Fees for services are based upon a sliding scale with income verification required. Private health insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare assignments are also accepted when applicable.



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(941) 639-8300

1700 Education Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Children's Community Action Team (CAT)

Charlotte Behavioral Health Care



Community Action Team (CAT)



What is CAT?

The Children's Community Action Team (CAT) is a self-contained multi-disciplinary clinical team that provides comprehensive, intensive community-based treatment to families with youth and young adults (ages 11-21) who are at risk of out-of-home placement due to a mental health or co-occurring disorder and related complex issues for whom traditional services are not/have not been adequate.

The CAT Team provides services to families residing in Charlotte County. Staff will provide services primarily in the community, specifically in home and school environment, and the home office. Family-centered services are individualized according to the strengths and needs of the child and family.



Services provided and/or coordinated by the team include:

- Psychiatric (evaluation and medication management)
- Therapy (individual, group and family)
- Case Management
- Mentoring, life skills development and respite services
- Crisis intervention & 24/7 on-call coverage/support
- Educational system advocacy, coordination, and tutoring

The goals of the CAT team are:

- To improve school related outcomes such as attendance, grades and graduation rates.
- Decrease out of home placements
- Improve family and youth functioning
- Decrease substance use and abuse
- Decrease CSU admissions
- Increase health and wellness
- Transition into age appropriate services



Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for CAT, children must reside in Charlotte County. In addition, children ages 11-21 must meet at least one of the eligibility requirements listed below. Children under age 11 must meet at least two of the requirements.

- At risk for out of home placement (SIPP, foster care, etc.)
- Have two or more CSU admissions
- Involved with DJJ
- Poor academic performance and/or suspensions
- Must have failed in less intensive OP treatment or TBOSS

Referral Notes

CAT does not provide Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services, so patients on the spectrum would most likely not benefit from CAT services. However, if unsure, please fill out a referral form.

The CAT Team provides on-call crisis support after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

Referrals are centralized. Please call (941) 347-6499 or fax (941) 347-6494.