

MTS:

- Plan and coordinate services for children with emotional/behavioral disorders in DSS custody.
- Provide intensive case management.
- Develop individualized services plans.
- Monitor effectiveness of services.
- Pursue least restrictive environment appropriate to meet treatment needs.

Mission Statement

To enhance the emotional and social well-being of children in the least restrictive, most appropriate, normalized, community environment through intensive case management while promoting safety, health and permanency.



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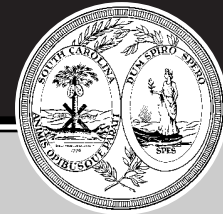
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**MTS: Making the Difference;
One Child at a Time**

Purpose

Through the utilization of intensive case management services, children and youth with emotional disturbances in DSS custody are provided appropriate out-of-home therapeutic placement and other services designed to enhance their emotional and social functioning. Services are planned and individualized through the collaborative

efforts of agencies, providers and family members with the goal of successful re-integration into the community and family reunification when possible. Every effort is made to assure that clients are placed in clinically appropriate, least restrictive settings that are located as close to their home communities and families as possible.



Scope of Services

Intensive case management is utilized to ensure that services are based upon the youth's unique needs as reflected in his/her individualized service plan, and that the frequency, level and intensity of services are clinically appropriate to meet those needs.

MTS staff also interface with the Family Court system and make custody recommendations concerning the best interest of the child. To this end, birth parents, foster families, relatives and other involved parties are included in the youth's Total Service Plan (TSP). Lastly, MTS regional staff fiscally manage and monitor all services on a client-by-client basis to ensure compliance with the goals outlined in the youth's TSP.

Screening/Assessment Guidelines

All children in DSS custody who are entering out-of-home care are assessed through an out-of-home protocol process involving the local mental health center. The protocol provides a timeline and associated activities that must take place within 72 hours of a child having been removed from his/her home.

The intent of the protocol is to address the trauma that a child and family experiences at the time of the removal. During this process, if a child exhibits emotional and behavioral difficulties of such intensity that a therapeutic placement appears to be imminent, the child's case is referred to the Interagency System of Caring for Emotionally Disturbed Children (ISCEDC) Interagency Staffing Team in the child's county of custody.

When the protocol assessment indicates that a child is emotionally disturbed and may require therapeutic placement, or a child in regular foster care disrupts, the county worker may contact MTS staff for emergency placement and level of care authorization until an IST can be held to determine eligibility and develop a plan.

Those children with ED who may require out-of-home treatment placement are staffed by an interagency team to determine eligibility for ISCEDC. A plan is completed on every child that is staffed. This plan is implemented and monitored by MTS if the child is determined ISCEDC eligible and MTS is the identified lead agency.