

AS THE CONNECTICUT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (CTBHP), ValueOptions® works closely with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Social Services to administer public behavioral health services statewide.

Primarily, the Department of Children and Family and the Department of Social Services created the Partnership to improve the quality and availability of community-based services and supports. This reform improves the ability of Medicaid members to remain in their homes and communities, to function independently, to achieve a better quality of life, and to avoid unnecessary hospital and institutional care.

With that in mind, CTBHP delivers an integrated public behavioral health service system for children and families, providing enhanced access to, and coordination of, a more complete and effective system of community-based behavioral health services.

CTBHP also supports and improves individual outcomes, as well as effectively manages state resources and increased federal financial participation in the funding of behavioral health services.

CTBHP eliminates the major gaps and barriers that exist in the current behavioral health delivery system; and is based on the belief that members should receive services in their community whenever possible. Key characteristics of CTBHP reforms include the following:

- **Expansion and enhancement of clinical services and supports**
- **A primary focus on strengthening families**
- **A strong preference for delivery of services within the local community**
- **Intensive case management**
- **Identification of gaps in the delivery system**
- **Creation of annual local area development plans**
- **Technical assistance to providers to expand services or capacity**

AT A GLANCE

Client: State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Social Services (DSS)

Covered Lives: 320,000

Covered Services: Management of substance abuse and mental health community-based services for HUSKY A, HUSKY B, and voluntary DCF children and their families

Contract Type: Administrative Services Only

Geography: Statewide

Date Started: January 2006

The CTBHP service system includes core services (currently covered under Connecticut's Medicaid Program) as well as grant funded community services such as residential care and intensive home based services. CTBHP priorities include:

- **Ensuring access to appropriate care for members and decreased delays in care**
- **Evaluating existing provider network and making recommendations for expansion as indicated**
- **Evaluating the efficacy of the clinical work conducted while supporting best practice initiatives**
- **Ensuring the voices of consumers and family members are heard and responded to**
- **Providing the State of Connecticut data which will inform all of the above**



The enhanced service levels include additional specialized community services such as care coordination, behavioral consultation services, and therapeutic mentoring. This also includes individualized support services such as respite, which are typically funded by grants and/or flexible fund accounts and administered by DCF local area offices and community collaboratives. Children with complex behavioral health needs have access to these proposed enhanced services as they come on line. The HUSKY managed care organizations continue to be responsible for physical health services, hospital ED services, transportation and pharmacy.

Families and advocates play an instrumental role in ensuring that the system is accountable and responsive to the needs of children and their families. There is an alliance of existing advocacy organizations comprised of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Families United for Children's Mental Health (a Chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health), Padres Abriendo Puertas, and African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities. This consortium, known as FAVOR, works collaboratively with the CT BHP to inform policy and practice, to work hand in hand with CT BHP consumer staff advocates and to work together to provide training throughout local communities across Connecticut.

The CTBHP philosophy is predicated on families as equal partners in all aspects of planning and decision making, not only on behalf of their own children, but at all levels of service design and delivery.

