

Adolescent Substance Use Treatment Frequently Asked Questions

Referrals and Assessment

- **How do I know if the adolescents I plan to refer are appropriate for the program?**
 - Careful assessment by a specially trained professional is key to determining appropriate treatment, as services are not a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **What is important when connecting a child or adolescent to treatment?**
 - It is important to ensure the individual understands that the purpose of the referral is to help them, not to punish them.
- **Is relying only on an adolescent's responses to the CRAFFT screening and ASAM Assessment enough to accurately recommend the appropriate level of care?**
 - No, this is false. An adolescent may not fully trust the assessor during these screenings or may not believe they have a substance use problem. Any information the referral source can provide ahead of time, such as drug screen results or what led to juvenile probation officer (JPO) involvement, helps the intake assessor get a fuller picture of the referral's purpose.
- **Does the CRAFFT screening determine the level of care needed?**
 - No, the ADMH Integrated Placement Assessment based on ASAM criteria determines the treatment level of care.

Cost and Accessibility

- **How much will the treatment cost?**
 - There is no out-of-pocket cost for adolescents or their families. All referrals are treated regardless of their ability to pay.
- **Can treatment be provided through telehealth or at school if the adolescent has transportation issues?**
 - Yes, if the client is screened and determined to be clinically appropriate to receive telehealth services. Telehealth is offered as optional method of service delivery at the request of the adolescent or guardian and determined on an individual basis.

Treatment Options and Process

- **What treatment options are available?**
 - There are various options for outpatient treatment, though inpatient options are limited. Each person is assessed to formulate an individualized plan of care based on their multifaceted needs. The program does not use a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **Will the adolescent have to take a drug screen?**
 - Yes, all participants are asked to take a drug screen.
- **Will the adolescents remain with their primary therapist while in substance use treatment?**
 - Yes, if it is deemed appropriate.
- **How do adolescents typically view marijuana use? Adolescents generally do not consider marijuana to be a drug.**
 - When asked if marijuana is something they can become addicted to, their answer is typically no.

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Willingness and Expectations

- **Do clients have to be willing to go to treatment, and do they have to want to participate?**
 - Clients must be willing to participate in treatment. They are not detained and have access to walk out. However, an adolescent can still benefit from being in treatment even if they do not feel they need it or want to participate. Treatment provides an opportunity to learn about themselves, engage in healthy activities, find positive social support, and build skills, regardless of their perception of their substance use.
- **Is this service going to make major changes in the child?**
 - Major changes are dependent on the adolescent's willingness and commitment to make those changes, as well as the support system they have at home.

Family Involvement and Confidentiality

- **Are parents and families a part of the treatment services?**
 - Yes, they are crucial to the success of the program. Encouragement, open communication, and support are keys to recovery.
- **Will the treatment team keep me updated on my young person's progress, and what information will I receive?**
 - Confidentiality is important to both the provider and the individual receiving treatment. Each participant has a right to privacy and confidentiality, which includes deciding who they want involved in their care. It is up to the young person or their family to permit updates. While this can sometimes be frustrating, the program values your role and appreciates that you have entrusted them with the individual's care. Typically, a brief list of information can be released if there is parental or child consent.

Duration, Discharge, and Completion

- **How long is the treatment?**
 - Treatment is individualized and based on the needs of the adolescent. The length of treatment depends on the depth of the substance use disorder problem and is contingent upon the completion of the adolescents service plan goals and the adolescent's commitment to working on and practicing their treatment plan to make changes.
- **Is a client automatically discharged after 90 days?**
 - No, clients are assessed for continued stay.
- **If an adolescent turns 19 after 30 days in treatment, do they have to be discharged?**
 - No, not if they are still in school or court ordered.
- **What are the criteria for completion?**
 - Completion of treatment plan goals, negative drug screenings and consistent participation in treatment services.