

BRIGHTSIDE TREATMENT CENTER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR BOYS AGES 10 - 17

- Two off-campus houses located in the community
 - Males ages 10 - 15
 - Males ages 12 - 17
- Staff-to-client ratio: 1:4
- Meets or exceeds all set standards

The Community Connections Treatment Program consists of two off-campus houses in the community, one licensed for ages 10 - 15, the other ages 12 - 17, with a combined capacity of 15 boys.

Youths residing in these off-campus homes have typically advanced through one of the on-campus residential programs and progressed enough in treatment to live in a community setting while continuing work to return to their own community or another less restrictive living environment. The Community Connections' residences are basically self-sufficient as staff and clients engage in the daily living and social skills necessary for a group of people to live in a homelike, family-style setting. Participants learn about a wide variety of activities including: menu planning, grocery shopping and meal preparation. Opportunities available to youth in this program may include increased community involvement and recreational activities, enrollment in local public schools and obtaining part-time jobs.

Treatment components include:

- Individual, family and group treatment
- Psycho-educational groups (twice weekly)
- Continued use of the Psycho-educational Treatment Model (PEM) developed by Boys and Girls Town

- Mode Deactivation Therapy (MDT) to further develop self-control, social and behavioral skills.



Continued development of independent living skills is an important focus of the program. Therapeutic recreation groups occur twice weekly, Spiritual Development groups and activities occur weekly.

Monthly Friends and Family Day offers an additional opportunity for family members, visiting resources and friends of the youths to visit Brightside, learn about the program, meet the staff and participate in positive activities. While most clients in these homes have "stepped down" from one of Brightside's on-campus residential programs, referral to and direct admission to the Community Connections Program is possible and will be considered if appropriate for a particular youngster.

The Community Connections Treatment Program maintains a staff-to-client ratio of at least 1:4 during awake hours, with an additional staff person 5 days a week to assist with the various activities. The program provides awake overnight staffing, and meets or exceeds all standards set by the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services (OCCS) and the Council on Accreditation (COA).

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Admission Criteria

The individual demonstrates symptomatology and diagnosis which requires and will respond to a structured, 24-hour therapeutic residential setting; the individual has sufficient intellectual capacity to respond to active psychological treatment; the individual is able to function with some degree of independence and participate in community-based activities to develop skills for functioning outside of a controlled psychiatric environment.

Exclusionary Criteria

The individual has a psychiatric condition, diagnosis, behaviors and/or treatment needs requiring care at a more intensive level; has a medical condition requiring more intensive medical treatment; is actively suicidal or homicidal; or has a full-scale IQ less than 70.

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