

# CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICE SYSTEM PROGRAM (CASSP)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS CASSP IN LANCASTER COUNTY?

Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) is a philosophy of collaboration and partnership among providers involved with the child/adolescent. CASSP was developed to provide comprehensive mental health care for children, adolescents, and their families. This system service model was established at the federal level to improve treatment and service delivery across systems for children and adolescents in their communities. PA implemented the CASSP system in 1986. Lancaster County has the following CASSP activities:

- CASSP Clinic Meetings
- CASSP Policy Meetings
- Case Review Meetings

CASSP is a partnership between the public (tax-funded) agencies that serve children and adolescents. In Lancaster County, **six agencies** work together in CASSP:

- ✓ Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
- ✓ Children & Youth
- ✓ Drug & Alcohol Commission
- ✓ Juvenile Probation
- ✓ Intermediate Unit #13
- ✓ Lancaster County School Districts

### WHAT IS A CASSP COORDINATOR?

The Lancaster County CASSP Coordinator, an employee of Lancaster County BH/DS, provides services to other child-serving agencies.

The CASSP Coordinator:

- Works closely with other child serving agencies who are dealing with children's mental health issues and encourages the agencies to plan together.
- Assists in the oversight & coordination of the delivery of children's mental health services in Lancaster County.
- Participates in interagency service planning treatment meeting where out of home treatment is being recommended or more planning and expertise is needed with children's MH services.
- Serves as the County liaison with the behavioral health managed care partner (Perform Care)
- Coordinates & facilitates CASSP Meetings/ CASSP Clinics and Policy Meetings.

- Involved in developing and expanding children’s services in cooperation with other child-serving agencies.
- Provides technical assistance, consultation, and distribution of mental health information.

## WHAT IS A CASSP TEAM MEETING?

CASSP Meetings are a mechanism to help agencies, systems, and schools to determine which avenue to pursue when looking for resources and supports for youth with or at risk of developing severe emotional disorders. CASSP meetings always include the youth and their family in the decision making.

## WHO ATTENDS A CASSP MEETING?

Family Members, parents, guardians, children/adolescents, treatment team members, and all identified natural supports are welcome to participate. In addition, the CASSP CORE team members will be in attendance as requested.

- **CASSP CORE TEAM MEMBERS** represent the following agencies:
  - Lancaster County Children & Youth Agency
  - Lancaster County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
  - Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Agency
  - Lancaster/ Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13
  - Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission

## WHAT IS CASSP CLINIC?

This clinic is a committee representing each of the five children serving agencies of CASSP. The Clinic meets twice a month to review and make recommendations for children and youth with mental health issues. They review cases for which planning has been difficult.

Agencies who refer a case to the Clinic invite parents and family members, all agencies, school officials, and the youth (if appropriate) to participate in the meeting and planning process.

The focus of the Clinic is to review the strengths and needs of the child and family and recommend or create appropriate services for the child. The Clinic also makes recommendations to the policy committee about services that need to be developed.

In addition to Clinic, the County encourages interagency team meetings. These meetings are considered best practice to develop plans for children with mental health needs and their family.

## WHEN IS IT TIME FOR A CASSP MEETING?

There is no “right” time for a CASSP Meeting. CASSP meetings should be utilized as early as possible for planning regarding a child/adolescent’s mental health needs. CASSP should be viewed as a proactive response in planning with other systems to discuss the child/adolescent mental health needs. When in doubt, contact the CASSP Coordinator for further discussions to determine the need for a CASSP Meeting.

### **WHAT A CASSP MEETING CANNOT DO:**

- Determine medical necessity for mental health treatment services
- Authorize or approve payment for mental health treatment services
- Determine custodial rights, visitation, or court recommendations
- Develop truancy elimination plan
- Does not take the place of an Individualized Education Plan meeting

### **IS THERE A COST TO HOST A CASSP MEETING?**

No, CASSP meetings are at no cost to children and their families living in Lancaster County. Meetings can be held for children returning from out of home placement from another county or for planning and collaboration purposes. It is recommended this planning be coordinated as early as possible to meet the needs of the family and youth to address

### **WHO IS THE CONTACT FOR CASSP IN LANCASTER COUNTY?**

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