

## Program Objectives:

- Increase early access to services for youth and families experiencing a behavioral health crisis
  - ◇ that present in the local emergency department, or
  - ◇ are identified at risk for a behavioral health crisis in the community.
- Provide daily assessment and re-assessment of youth in the emergency department on a 5150/5585 hold in an effort to reduce wait times in the emergency department.
- Provide short term behavioral health treatment interventions, develop Safety Plans and/or transition youth back to the community if appropriate.
- Improve care coordination between youth and local care providers. Link patients to after care treatment, the SAFTY program and additional outreach services within 24 hours and up to 7 days a week.

## Children's Crisis/Triage Services

Responsible for all Emergency Department crisis contacts as well as those in other regions of the hospital including the main medical surgical floors, Critical Care Unit and Telemetry.

Our team works in collaboration with SAFTY and Behavioral Wellness Adult Mobile Crisis & Triage Services to serve all emergency contacts ages 21 and under.



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF

**Behavioral Wellness**

A System of Care and Recovery

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Children Crisis/Triage Services  
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**Hablamos Español**

# North County Crisis Services

## Children's Crisis/Triage Program



## What is the Program?

A grant funded program designed to address the gaps in crisis services for youth primarily in the local Hospital Emergency Departments (ED).

### Coverage area:

- Marian Medical Center Emergency Department
- Lompoc Valley Medical Emergency Department



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## Why is my child receiving a crisis evaluation?

- Thoughts about hurting self or others
- Seeing or hearing things (hallucinations)
- Having bizarre or paranoid thoughts (delusions)
- Being extremely aggressive or destructive
- Using drugs or alcohol or refusing to stop
- Not eating or sleeping for an extended period of time
- Exhibiting severe psychiatric symptoms (e.g. anxiety, mania, or depression) that have not responded to outpatient treatment
- Confused thinking or irrational thoughts

**A Mental Health Professional will evaluate your child to determine whether hospitalization is necessary.**



**My child meets criteria for a psychiatric admission. Now what?**

- Possibly a stay in the ER from 24 up to 72 hours until a psychiatric bed is available.
- Ongoing evaluations on a daily basis by mental health professional to determine ongoing criteria
- Child transported by an ambulance to a psychiatric hospital once a bed is secured



## What can I expect once my child is admitted to the psychiatric hospital?

- You will be provided with information on how to contact your child, caseworker, the nursing station
- Stay in close communication with the hospital at all times. The hospital staff will be planning for your child's discharge as soon as it is safe to do so.
- **Information on visiting hours:**
  - ◊ You will be allowed to bring clothes and personal items, but some items are not permitted for safety reasons.
  - ◊ Check before you visit.

## PRIMARY GOAL OF AN INPATIENT HOSPITAL STAY

To STABILIZE your child so they can be released home and to outpatient care.



## It's time for my child to go home! What can I expect at time of discharge?

- A discharge plan with patient instructions, possible medications and a follow up appointment with an outpatient clinic.
- Parents are an important part of the discharge planning process so stay in communication

**My child DID NOT meet the criteria for a psychiatric hospitalization.**



## Now What?

**Children's Crisis Triage Can HELP!**

- ◆ We will send you home with a Safety Plan
- ◆ We will help you link to a community Mental Health provider and additional support services
- ◆ Both the Children's Crisis/Triage Program and the SAFTY Program will be checking in soon with your family