North County Crisis Services

Children’s Crisis/Triage Program

Coverage area:
- Marian Medical Center Emergency Department
- Lompoc Valley Medical Emergency Department

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).

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.

SAINT BARBARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF Behavioral Wellness
A System of Care and Recovery

North County Crisis Services
Children Crisis/Triage Services
212 West Carmen Lane
805-803-8700
Rocio Bandera-Willard
Recovery Specialist/Parent Partner
Dr. Arlene M Altobelli, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist

Hablamos Español
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.

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.

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.

**PRIMARY GOAL OF AN INPATIENT HOSPITAL STAY**

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