

Mental Health Crisis for Your Kids, Teens?

Screening, Assessment, and Support Service (SASS) Can Help

Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS)

Screening, Assessment, and Support Service (SASS), is a statewide crisis program for children and youth. SASS provides intensive mental health services for children and youth who may need hospitalization for mental health care. SASS will also provide crisis intervention, linkage and coordination of services to other community based mental health agencies for aftercare and outpatient treatment. The SASS program's main focus is to stabilize the family and maintain the youth at home and in the community. The program has a single point of entry, Crisis and Referral Entry Service (CARES).

Criteria

- Children and youth under the age of 18 seeking public funding for psychiatric services through the Department of Human Services
- Any child or youth enrolled in Illinois Healthcare and Family Services Medicaid Program or Medicaid Managed Care Organization
- Any child or youth whom DCFS has legal responsibility

How to Access Services

If you or a youth that you know need SASS services, contact the **CARES line at 800-345-9049**.

What to Expect When Calling CARES

When calling CARES, you will be asked to provide information on the youth you are calling about, such their name and age, as well as the location of the crisis. You will also be asked to provide information regarding the current crisis situation.

SASS Screening

A SASS crisis worker will respond to the youth in crisis to complete a crisis screening and make recommendations on appropriate mental health care, which may include community-based services or inpatient hospitalization. The crisis screening can be provided in-person, over the phone, or through video, as requested by the family.

Assessment and Support Services

Following the SASS screening, youth can access ongoing youth and family focused mental health services. The SASS agency will work with the youth and their family to complete an Integrated Assessment and Treatment Plan. Through the Integrated Assessment and Treatment Plan, ongoing mental health services to meet the individual needs of the youth will be identified, and referrals to community-based mental health treatment is provided as needed.