

Underlying all Children's Mental Health services are

The CASSP Principles:

- **Child- Centered**

Services meet the individual need of the child, consider the child's and family's context, and are developmentally appropriate, strengths-based and child-specific.

- **Family- Focused**

Services recognize that the family is the primary support system for the child and participates as a full partner in all stages in the decision-making and treatment-planning process.

- **Community- Based**

Whenever possible, services are delivered in the child's home community, drawing on formal and informal resources to promote the child's successful participation in the community.

- **Multi- System**

Services are planned in collaboration with all the child-serving systems involved in a child's life.

- **Culturally- Competent**

Services recognize and respect the behavior, ideas, attitudes, values, beliefs, customs, language, rituals, ceremonies and practices characteristic of the child's ethnic group.

- **Least Restrictive/Least Intrusive**

Services take place in settings that are the least restrictive/intrusive available to meet the needs of the child and family.



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is CASSP?

CASSP is an acronym. It stands for **C**hild and **A**dolescent **S**ervice **S**ystem **P**rogram.

CASSP began at the federal level as an attempt to improve treatment and service delivery across systems for children and adolescents in their communities. In 1986, the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health implemented the CASSP system in Pennsylvania.

Each county in Pennsylvania has access to a CASSP Coordinator and an interagency CASSP team, although counties may differ in the way they implement the CASSP process.

Who is referred to CASSP?

Pennsylvania CASSP focuses on youth up through age 18 (21 if in special classes) experiencing serious emotional difficulties. The child may be involved with - or need to be involved with - more than one child-serving system. For example, the child may be problematic at home, may be unable to function in regular or special education settings, or may be adjudicated delinquent or dependent.

Who will attend my child's CASSP meeting?

Five primary child-serving systems form the core of the CASSP program in Westmoreland County. They are Children's Bureau, Drug and Alcohol, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, Behavioral Health, and Juvenile Services.

Core team members from various agencies represent these systems at CASSP meetings. Representatives from the referred child's school district are also invited. Parents can choose to bring other interested parties, such as family members, friends, therapists, clergy, etc.

It is also the parent's choice as to whether or not the referred child will participate in all or part of the CASSP meeting. Being a member of the planning team is important for older children and adolescents.

What happens at a CASSP meeting?

The interagency team discusses the respective child/family's strengths and needs. As a result of the discussion, a service recommendation plan is developed. A lead case manager is identified at the conclusion of each meeting to assure follow-up. All parties receive a copy of the CASSP case review. When necessary, follow-up meetings can be arranged.

All information discussed at a CASSP meeting is considered strictly confidential. All parties in attendance sign an agreement to that effect.

Who can request a CASSP meeting?

Generally, there is some issue or concern that creates the need for a CASSP meeting; however, anyone involved with a child can request a meeting, i.e. families, schools, case managers, mental health professionals, case workers, probation officers, etc.

A parent must give written permission for information to be shared with the team and for the meeting to be held. Adolescents over the age of 14 must also give written permission.

Where are CASSP meetings held?

Westmoreland County has three CASSP teams based in Greensburg, New Kensington, and Monessen. The teams meet regularly in convenient locations.

For more information about CASSP in Westmoreland County or to make a referral, please contact:

Renee Dadey

CASSP Coordinator

dadeyr@westmoreland.swsix.com

724- 830- 3097

OR

Patrick Showman

CASSP Representative

showmap@westmoreland.swsix.com

724- 830- 3585

OR

Jason Stangl

CASSP Representative

stanglj@westmoreland.swsix.com

724- 830- 3657



So your Child is having a CASSP Meeting ...



Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) of Westmoreland County

A Collaborative Effort of Westmoreland County:

- Children's Bureau
- Drug and Alcohol Commission
- Westmoreland Intermediate Unit
- Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
- Regional Youth (Juvenile) Services