



# February Care Management Webinar

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**CountyCare**  
A MEDICAID HEALTH PLAN

**BRAVE HEALTH™**



**We engage your members in  
easy-to-access therapy &  
psychiatric medication  
management care they deserve.**

a Brave Health Introduction

# Brave Overview

Brave is a **100% virtual** outpatient mental health provider with a **focus on serious mental illness** and **maternal mental health** geared **towards Medicaid members**

**Brave is a 100% virtual  
behavioral health provider**



- Ongoing Outpatient Care
- Virtual Video Sessions
- Psychiatry (Medication Management), Therapy (Group & Individual) and Support Services

**We are designed to serve  
individuals with complex needs**



- Medicaid Focused
- Serious Mental Illness
- Adolescent care: 13+
- Comorbid Condition / High Utilizers
- Maternal Mental Health
- Rural Areas
- Follow-up After Hospitalization

**We make it easy to refer &  
partner with you**



- Simple online form
- Real-time confirmation & notifications
- Closed loop communication with referrers every step of the way

# Brave Health Approach & Programs

Tailored **Evidence-Based Programs** for **Complex Populations**

## Program & Modalities

### Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder

Focus on maternal mental health services

### Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)


Suicidal ideation, self-harm, emotion dysregulation and conflicted relationships

### Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)

Bilateral stimulation to reprocess images, thoughts, emotions, and body sensations associated with a traumatic event

### Zero Suicide Program

In-depth, solution focused support, encouraging a safe environment

 **Family/Couples Counseling**  
Develop strategies and skills to improve communication, resolve conflicts, and build trust.

## Benefits

- Improves the mother's mood and well-being
- Fosters positive maternal interactions with her child
- Influences the child's behavior and learning

- Increases distress tolerance
- Supports emotion regulation
- Teaches mindfulness
- Drives interpersonal effectiveness

- Reprocessing helps "repair" or reduce sensitivity of mental injuries from traumatic memories

- Member specific Safety Plan with supportive application on smart device
- Emphasis on high touch engagement and omni-channel check ins between appointments
- Weekly suicide support group

- Fosters development of shared skills and strategies to work through problems

## Patient Profile

- Expecting mothers
- 365 days postpartum
- Unexpected loss

- Borderline personality disorder (BPD)
- Self-harm
- Suicidal ideations
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

- PTSD
- Panic Disorder
- Phobias
- Social Anxiety

- Individuals reporting suicidal ideation
- Suspected suicide risk

- Families navigating mental health
- Financial strain
- Marital conflicts
- Parenting challenges

# The Brave Difference



## Able & willing to take patients others won't

Medicaid Focused, Serious Mental Illness, Adolescent care, Comorbid Condition/High Utilizers, Maternal Mental Health, Rural Areas, Follow-up After Hospitalization

## Care management training & client success planning

Brave trains referrers on services offered and best practices. Referrers receive notification when referrals are received, when patient schedules appointments and when patient attend appointments.



## <7 days to 1st appointment

Same day appointment availability, First Offered Appointment <3 days for members, 100% initial outreach completed within 24 hours from receipt of referral.

## Continuous provider capacity growth

Dedicated provider capacity ensures members are delivered care that meets optimal treatment SLAs

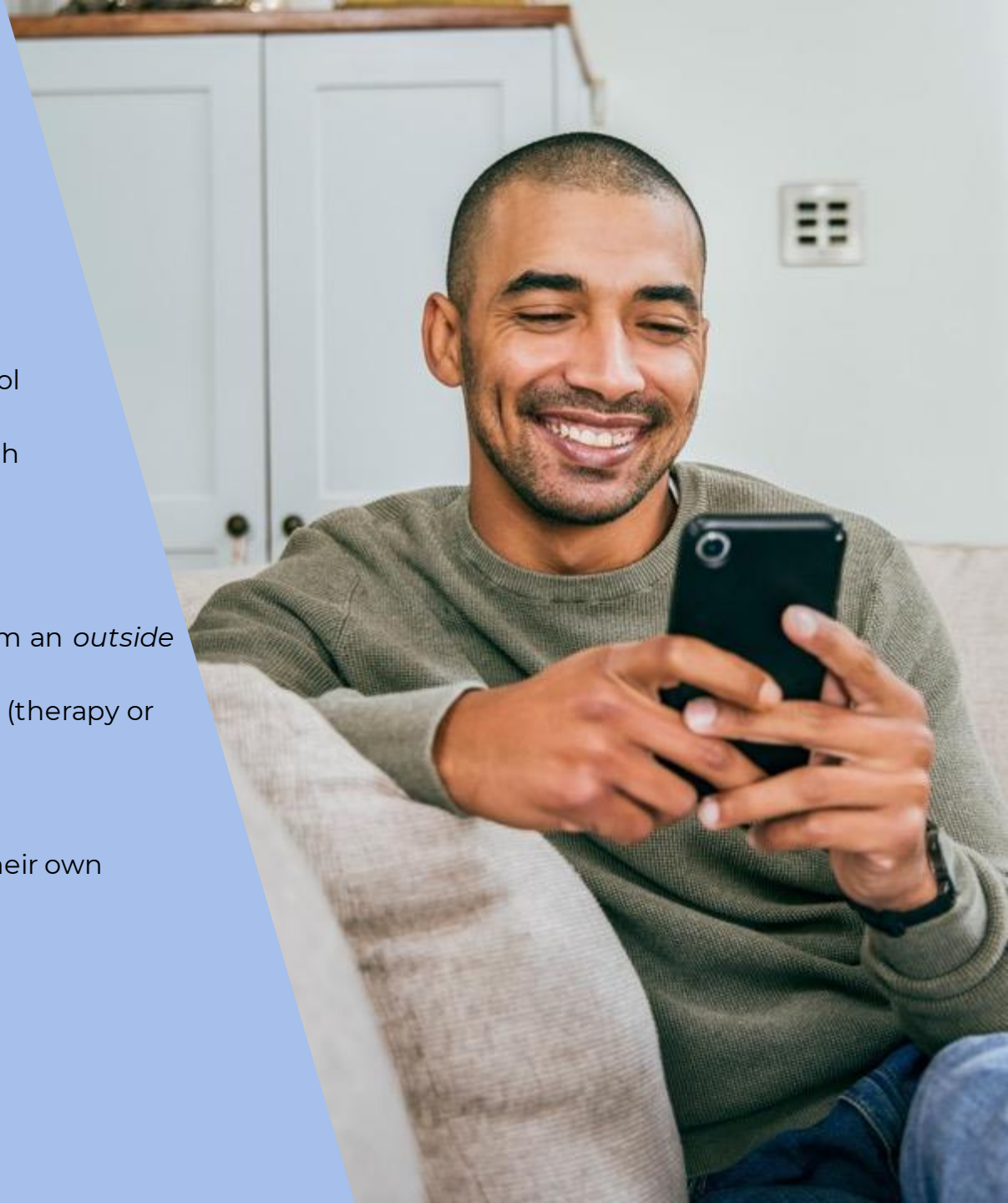
# Admission Criteria

## Patients We Can Serve

- Patients age **13+**
- Patients who **need comprehensive care**
  - **SMI Diagnosis** (complexity ready)
  - Members who score at/above a moderate level on a screening tool
- Patients who want to start or adjust psychiatric medication
  - Members in medical case management who report mental health symptoms
- Patients who have situational needs
  - **Transitions of care** (FUH/FUM)
  - **Pregnant and postpartum**
- Patients who have a prescription for benzodiazepines or stimulants from an *outside provider*
- Patients can receive one component of their care from Brave providers (therapy or psychiatry), and another from a CMHC provider (therapy or psychiatry)

## **Patients We Cannot Currently Serve**

- Patients who are unable or unwilling to provide informed consent to their own treatment
- Patients in need of medical detox services or psychological testing
- Patients with an active eating disorder



# How to Make a Referral to Brave

## Fast Access Online Referral Form



Step 1 of 2

### Put your patients on a brave path forward

To refer a member to Brave Health, please fill out this secure form.

We'll use the member's information to outreach them, and your information to share progress updates.

Required Fields (\*)

#### Patient Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Date of Birth\*

Patient State\* ▼

Mobile Number\*

Email Address

Next



- Once submitted, you will receive ongoing email notifications on your referred patients' key milestones.
- This includes the date and time of appointments, appointment outcomes, and if a patient declines services.
- If you need more information about a referral, you can email us at [partnersupport@bebravehealth.com](mailto:partnersupport@bebravehealth.com) and include the following patient info: Name, DOB, and Member ID

**Referral Form Link:** [www.bebravehealth.com/referral](http://www.bebravehealth.com/referral)

EMR: Brave Health

Fax: 727-306-8033

Secure Email: [referral@bebravehealth.com](mailto:referral@bebravehealth.com)



# What you can expect from us post referral



1) Partner refers members directly to Brave using our [secure online form](#)

2) Brave's Access Center **outreaches member within 1 day** of receiving referral to schedule first appointment via phone, email, and SMS

3) Patient completes an assessment or intake which includes a diagnosis and treatment plan

4) Brave continues tech-enabled outreach to keep patient engaged in services

5) Brave **shares ongoing member updates with referrer** and aggregated data with leadership



# Illinois Performance so far

Over the past ~4 months, we were **thrilled to connect new Illinois members to mental health services.**

Illinois has done a  
great job connecting  
us with members

952

New Patients

74%

Contact Rate<sup>(1)</sup>

Members have been  
eager to schedule  
appointments

37%

Scheduled Rate<sup>(1)</sup>

96%

Show Rate

We have availability to  
get them in quickly

11.6

Avg Days to First  
**Kept** Appointment

**Note: (1) Brave uses a 30 day contact strategy. Therefore, the Contact & Scheduled rates are understated.**





## Appendix



**CountyCare**  
A MEDICAID HEALTH PLAN

**BRAVE HEALTH™**



**We engage your members in  
easy-to-access therapy &  
psychiatric medication  
management care they deserve.**

a Brave Health Introduction

# Brave Overview

Brave is a **100% virtual** outpatient mental health provider with a **focus on serious mental illness** and **maternal mental health** geared **towards Medicaid members**

**Brave is a 100% virtual  
behavioral health provider**



- Ongoing Outpatient Care
- Virtual Video Sessions
- Psychiatry (Medication Management), Therapy (Group & Individual) and Support Services

**We are designed to serve  
individuals with complex needs**



- Medicaid Focused
- Serious Mental Illness
- Adolescent care: 13+
- Comorbid Condition / High Utilizers
- Maternal Mental Health
- Rural Areas
- Follow-up After Hospitalization

**We make it easy to refer &  
partner with you**



- Simple online form
- Real-time confirmation & notifications
- Closed loop communication with referrers every step of the way

# Ongoing Mental Health Treatment & Support

Brave Health offers a wide range of treatments to improve serious mental illness, as well as emotional or relationship issues.



**Psychiatric Medication Management** leads to improved treatment outcomes, reducing the need for hospitalization or emergency room visits. It also helps people feel more satisfied with their healthcare experience.

**Individual Therapy** can help people with serious mental illnesses get relief from symptoms and improve their quality of life.

**Clinician-led Therapy Groups** help individuals cope with mental health stressors and difficult life experiences and gain peer support, feedback, and skill-building opportunities.

**Specialized Therapy Programs** are evidence-based therapy modalities including DBT and EMDR.

# Support for Serious Mental Illness

We **empower individuals experiencing serious mental illness** to actively engage in their care. Our clinicians provide comprehensive care to ensure well-rounded and effective treatment.

## Comprehensive and Collaborative Care

- Therapists and psychiatric nurse practitioners collaborate closely and remain connected throughout a patient's journey with Brave
- Patients gain access to the multitude of services through the easy referral system within Brave.
- Patients are offered a full range of support and approach options to ensure well-rounded and effective treatment.

## Patient-Centered Clinical Program Focuses on Engagement and Connection

- Therapists not only treat, but coordinate members' engagement in Brave specialty program to achieve treatment plan goals
- To supplement individualized treatment plan, therapists employ the following evidence-based programs to support member driven goals:
  - DBT
  - EMDR
  - Zero Suicide Program
  - Group Therapy
  - Aftercare Services
  - Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder Program

# Maternal Mental Health / PMAD

**Specialized individual and group therapy** with trained clinicians who **focus on maternal mental health**

**1 in 5 women** will **experience** a **mental health condition** during **pregnancy** or in the year after the birth. (Source: WHO)

1:1 & group therapeutic support to patients who present with several PMADs, including:

- Postpartum Depression
- Perinatal Anxiety
- Perinatal Panic Disorder
- Perinatal Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Perinatal Psychosis
- Perinatal Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (include Birth Trauma)
- Perinatal Bipolar Disorders

Groups will include focus on postpartum, motherhood, and parenting concerns.

PMAD program promotes:

- Improvement in mother's mood
- Positive impact on maternal interactions with her child
- Influence the child's behavior and learning

*Available to adults and adolescents*





# Support for Adolescents

Adolescence is a crucial period for developing social and emotional habits important for mental wellbeing. Brave has clinicians specialized in the care and treatment of adolescents.

New patient starts with a biopsychosocial assessment (therapy) and/or medication management intake appointment with **Child & Adolescent specific tools:**

- PHQ9 for teens, GAD7 for teens
- Other screenings as clinically needed: CRAFFT, ACE, PSC-17 and others.

**Policies and oversight built** to see child and adolescent patients **ages 13-18**

Patients matched to **providers with child and adolescent expertise** and experience

Provider **collaborates** with care team, caregivers, and **patient's pediatrician as needed**



# Zero Suicide Program

The foundational belief of Zero Suicide is that **suicide deaths** for individuals under the care of health and behavioral health systems **are preventable**.

We have **several Zero Suicide (ZS) protective measures** put into place **to support our patients** including:

- Weekly suicide support group
- Safety plan with corresponding app
- Measurable treatment plan objectives and goals
- Phone call and SMS check ins in between appointments

Our approach changes the tone and conversations about suicide into **in-depth, ongoing, solution focused conversation**. We encourage a safe and supportive environment.

# Family/Couples Counseling

We **strengthen relationships** by helping families develop new strategies and skills to **improve communication, resolve conflicts, and build trust.**

Family and couples counseling works to help individuals identify patterns and develop shared skills and strategies to work through problems, including:

- **Major life transitions:** Families may seek counseling to help them cope with major life changes such as the birth of a new baby, a move to a new home, or the death of a family member.
- **Parenting difficulties:** Counseling helps parents learn strategies for dealing with challenging behavior from their children, or to address differences in parenting styles.
- **Marital problems:** Couples may be able to work through issues such as infidelity, communication problems, or differences in values or priorities.
- **Divorce or separation:** Counseling helps families navigate divorce or separation and develop strategies for co-parenting.
- **Screening Process:** All parties must complete an individual assessment to determine appropriateness and identify exclusion criterias.

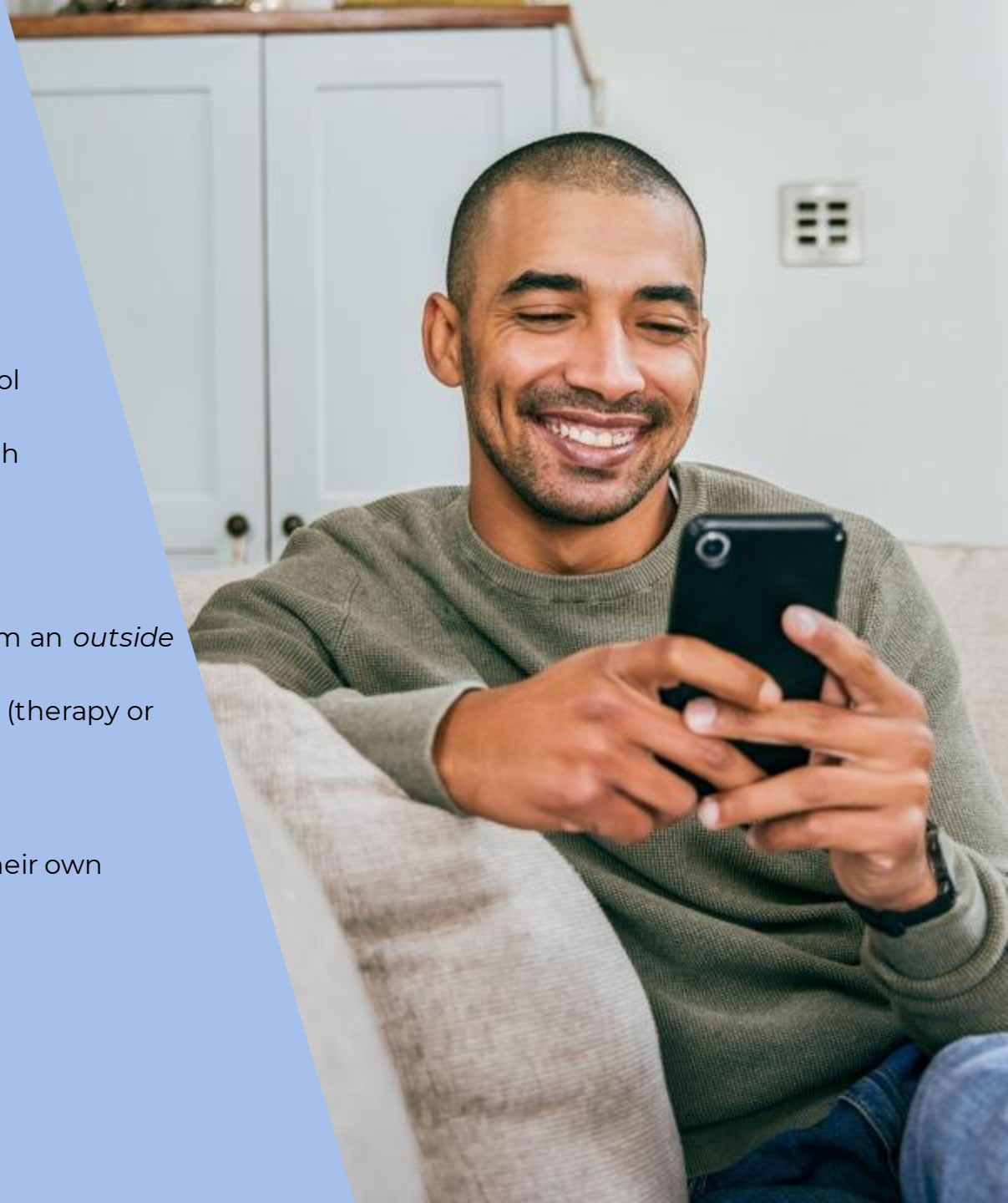
# Admission Criteria

## Patients We Can Serve

- Patients age **13+**
- Patients who **need comprehensive care**
  - **SMI Diagnosis** (complexity ready)
  - Members who score at/above a moderate level on a screening tool
- Patients who want to start or adjust psychiatric medication
  - Members in medical case management who report mental health symptoms
- Patients who have situational needs
  - **Transitions of care** (FUH/FUM)
  - **Pregnant and postpartum**
- Patients who have a prescription for benzodiazepines or stimulants from an *outside provider*
- Patients can receive one component of their care from Brave providers (therapy or psychiatry), and another from a CMHC provider (therapy or psychiatry)

## **Patients We Cannot Currently Serve**

- Patients who are unable or unwilling to provide informed consent to their own treatment
- Patients in need of medical detox services or psychological testing
- Patients with an active eating disorder



# Myth Buster

It can be hard to convince members to try telehealth. Let's bust some myths that exist today about using technology to connect to providers virtually.

**Virtual therapy is expensive**

**Fact:** Brave Health is in-network Meridian and there is no out of pocket expense to the members.



**Medicaid & Dual members are less likely to own smartphones**

**Fact:** 86% of Medicaid recipients own smartphones, the same rate as the rest of the US population.

Additionally, the following resources can be used to get members access to free cell phones.

- TruConnect Assurance
- Wireless Universal
- Telephone Assistance

**You need to be tech-savvy to use telehealth services**

**Fact:** All they have to do is click on a link to start their session, no apps or download necessary.

To connect with a Brave provider, patients only need a smartphone or computer with a stable wifi connection.

**Telehealth is less effective than in-person treatment**

**Fact:** Research has shown that patients and therapists don't need to be in the same room for treatment to work.

With same-day appointments, telehealth can actually help patients begin care more quickly than in-person care.

# How to Make a Referral to Brave

## Fast Access Online Referral Form



Step 1 of 2

### Put your patients on a brave path forward

To refer a member to Brave Health, please fill out this secure form.

We'll use the member's information to outreach them, and your information to share progress updates.

Required Fields (\*)

#### Patient Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Date of Birth\*

Patient State\* ▼

Mobile Number\*

Email Address

Next



- Once submitted, you will receive ongoing email notifications on your referred patients' key milestones.
- This includes the date and time of appointments, appointment outcomes, and if a patient declines services.
- If you need more information about a referral, you can email us at [partnersupport@bebravehealth.com](mailto:partnersupport@bebravehealth.com) and include the following patient info: Name, DOB, and Member ID

**Referral Form Link:** [www.bebravehealth.com/referral](http://www.bebravehealth.com/referral)

EMR: Brave Health

Fax: 727-306-8033

Secure Email: [referral@bebravehealth.com](mailto:referral@bebravehealth.com)

# What you can expect from us post referral



1) Partner refers members directly to Brave using our [secure online form](#)

2) Brave's Access Center **outreaches member within 1 day** of receiving referral to schedule first appointment via phone, email, and SMS

3) Patient completes an assessment or intake which includes a diagnosis and treatment plan

4) Brave continues tech-enabled outreach to keep patient engaged in services

5) Brave **shares ongoing member updates with referrer** and aggregated data with leadership



# Illinois Performance so far

Over the past ~3 months, we were **thrilled to connect new Illinois members to mental health services.**

Illinois has done a  
great job connecting  
us with members

952

New Patients

74%

Contact Rate<sup>(1)</sup>

Members have been  
eager to schedule  
appointments

37%

Scheduled Rate<sup>(1)</sup>

96%

Show Rate

We have availability to  
get them in quickly

11.6

Avg Days to First  
**Kept** Appointment

**Note: (1) Brave uses a 30 day contact strategy. Therefore, the Contact & Scheduled rates are understated.**



# Next Steps: Connect Members to Brave



Attend an onboarding meeting with Brave Health



Check your email to get tips, resources, and materials from Brave Health. (Might want to check spam just in case)



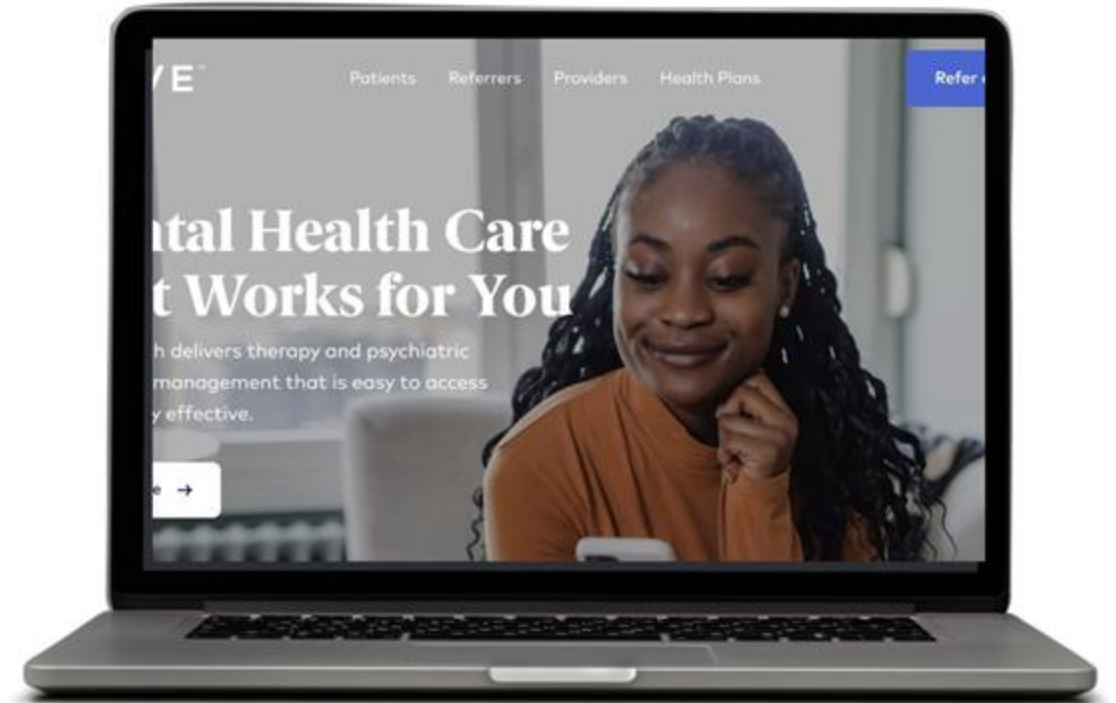
[Make your first referral](#)



Check e-mail to get patient status update with details about referral



Check the Brave website and/or email Partner Support to get answers for any questions at [partnersupport@bebravehealth.com](mailto:partnersupport@bebravehealth.com)



# Appendix



**BRAVE HEALTH™**



# Division of Specialized Care for Children

February 21, 2024

**Lisa Washington, Associate Director of Care Coordination**

**Gabrielle Schmitt, Assistant Director of Enrollment and Specialty Care**

**CountyCare**  
A MEDICAID HEALTH PLAN

# Objectives

**Identify key differences between DSCC's 3 Programs:  
Core, Connect Care and Home Care**

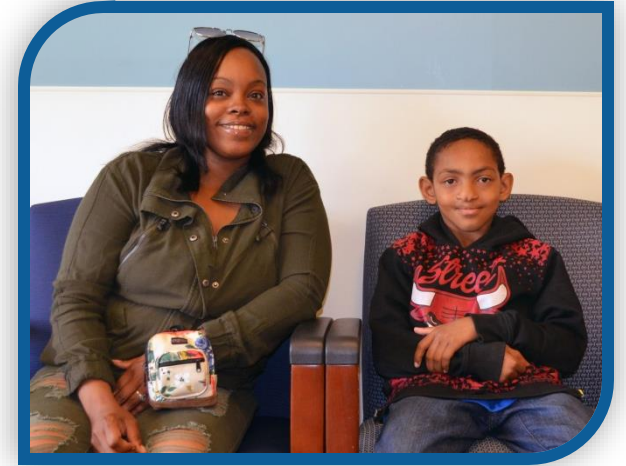
**List three services available to participants in each program**

**Determine potential eligibility for DSCC programs**

**Understand the referral process for DSCC programs**



# Who We Are



We are a statewide program that's served children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families since 1937.



We helped more than 17,400 Illinois families in FY 2023 through care coordination, resource information and referrals.

# Vision and Mission



## Vision

- » Children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN) and their families will be the center of a seamless support system that improves the quality of their lives.



## Mission

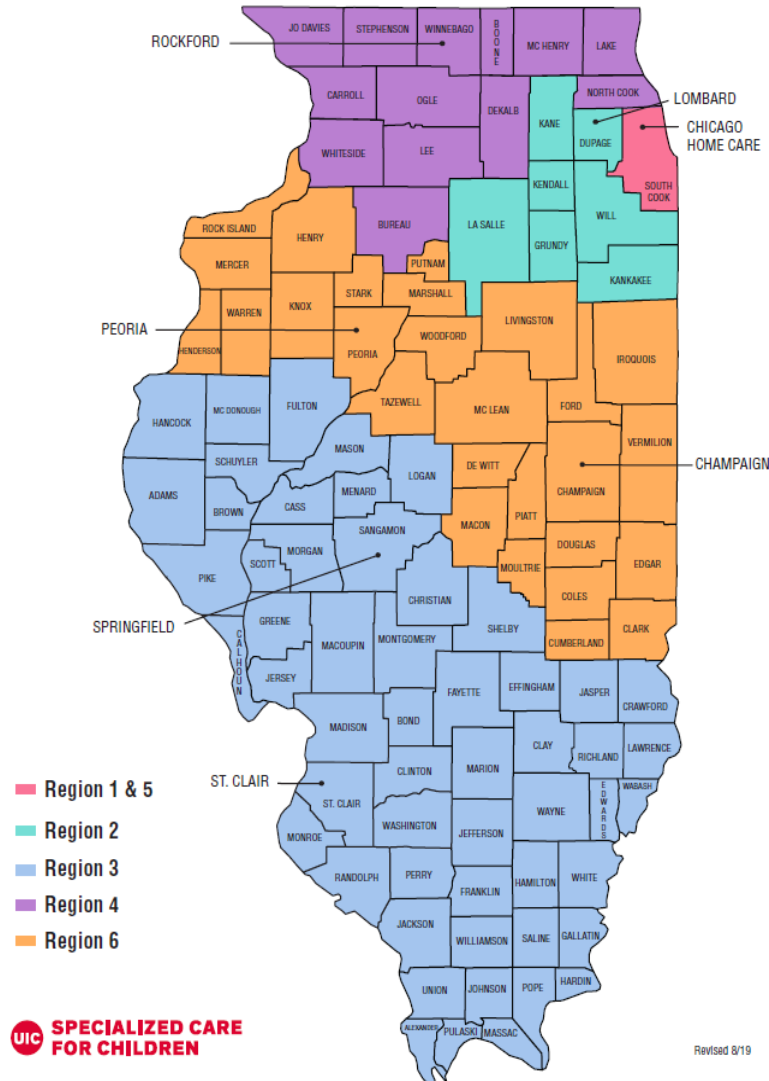
- » We partner with Illinois families and communities to help CYSHCN connect to services and resources.



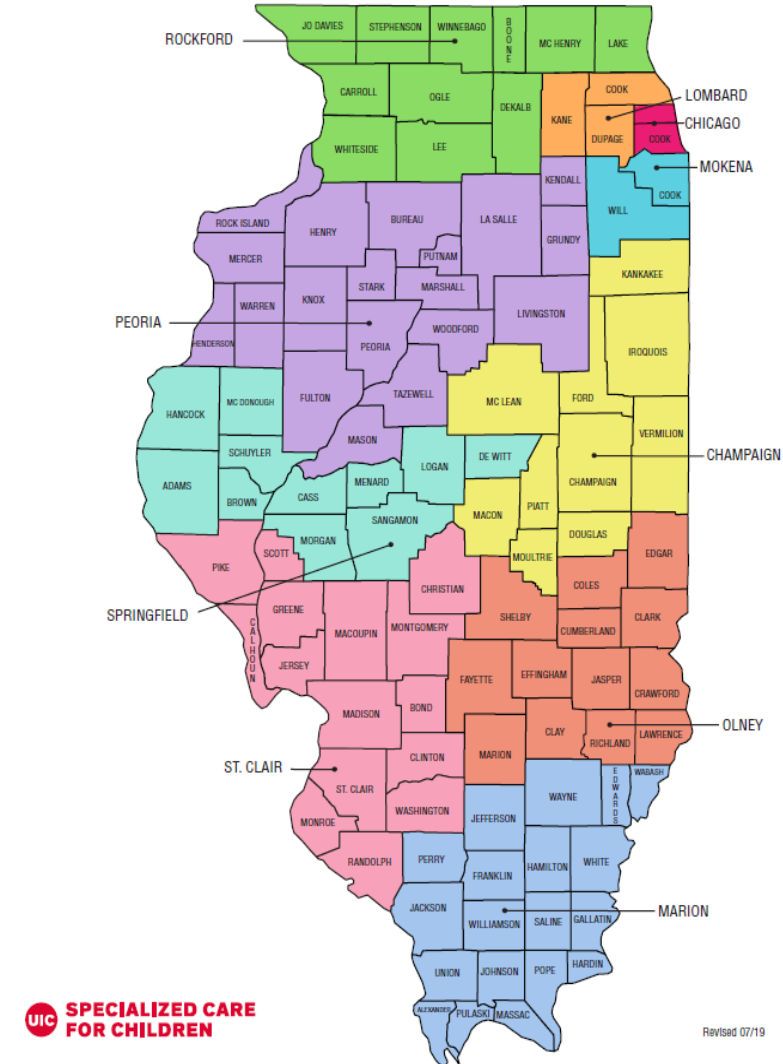


# Regional Office Maps

HOME CARE BOUNDARIES



REGIONAL OFFICE BOUNDARIES





# Care Coordination

**Person-and family-centered, strength-based, assessment-driven** approach of empowering families to achieve their goals, ultimately leading to positive health outcomes, improved quality of life and overall family satisfaction.

Efforts focus on partnering with families and communities to help children with special healthcare needs connect to services and resources they need.

# Care Coordination

Our care coordination is tailored to each child and family.



➡ Care coordination teams can include:

- Registered nurses
- Social workers
- Speech-language pathologists
- Audiologists
- Respiratory therapists
- Health insurance specialists

# How Care Coordination Helps

- ➡ Communicate with doctors & specialists
- ➡ Explain medical treatment plans
- ➡ Assist with transportation for medical appointments
- ➡ Connect families for parent-to-parent support
- ➡ Locate community resources
- ➡ Pay for eligible medical expenses when income guidelines are met

# Who We Serve



DSCC provides care coordination services through 3 programs:

- **Core** – Ages birth to 21 with medically eligible conditions.
- **Connect Care** – Ages birth to 21 with special healthcare needs who are enrolled in a Medicaid Health*Choice* Illinois plan that has contracted with DSCC for care coordination.
- **Home Care** – Child or youth with medical fragility and technology in need of in-home shift nursing.

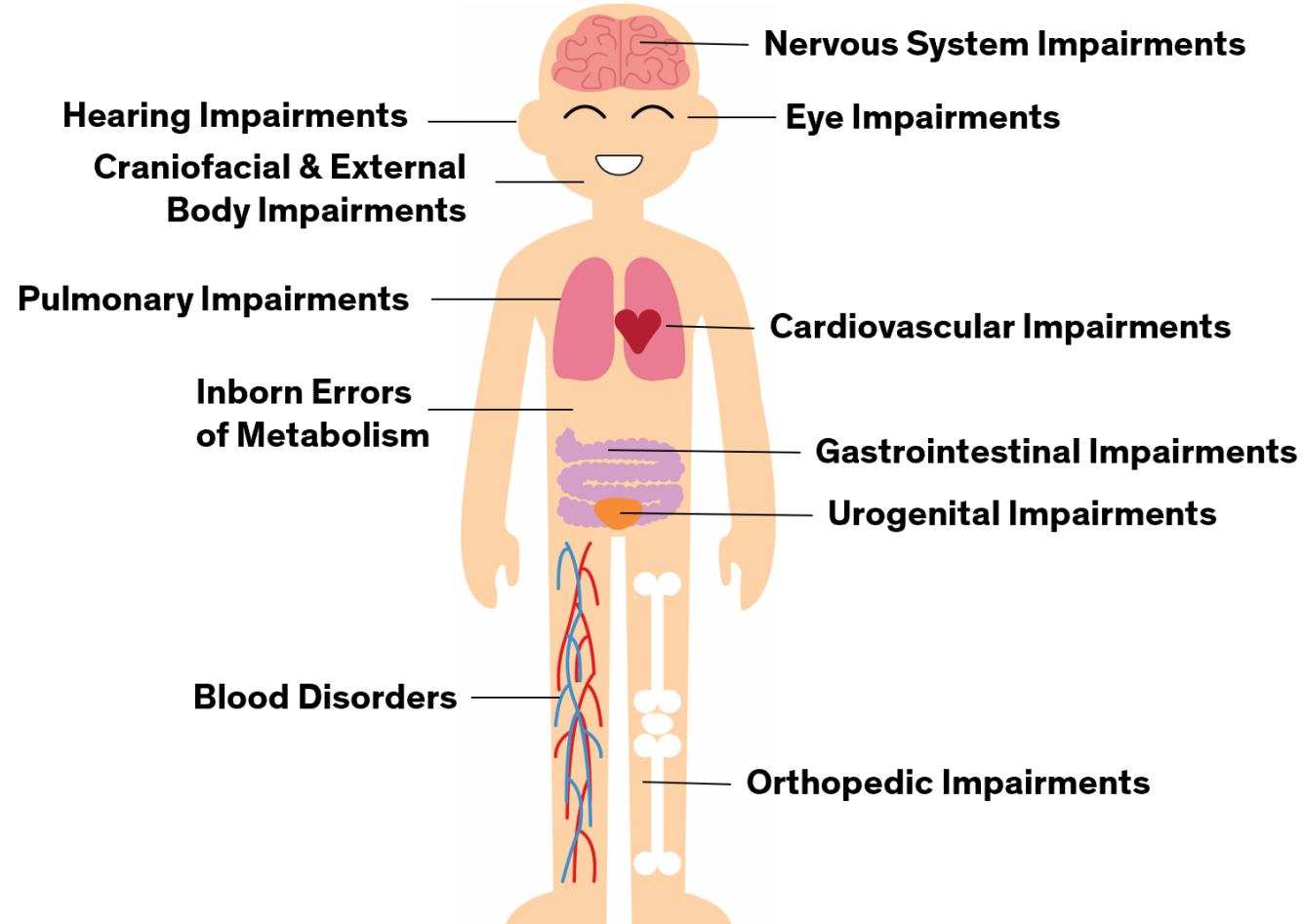
# Core Program

➡ For youth up to age 21 who have/are suspected of having an eligible condition.

➡ Condition must:

- Be chronic
- Qualify as one of 11 eligible categories
- Cause impairment or need for long-term care
- Require a care plan
- Benefit from care coordination

# Core Medically Eligible Conditions





# Core General Eligibility

- ➡ Under 21 years of age
- ➡ Resident of Illinois
- ➡ Not enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan



# Connect Care Program

- ➡ A program for children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN) enrolled in Medicaid managed care.
  - » HealthChoice Illinois is the Medicaid managed care program required statewide for CYSHCN.
  - » The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) moved CYSHCN into a HealthChoice Illinois plan on 2/1/2020.



# Connect Care Program

- DSCC has developed contracts with the Health*Choice* Illinois health plans to continue our care coordination services for affected families.
  - We consider new referrals to the Connect Care Program on a case-by-case basis.



# Home Care Program



- ➡ Provides care coordination to children & youth who require skilled in-home nursing.
- ➡ Operated on behalf of the Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services (HFS).
- ➡ DSCC has operated the MFTD waiver since 1983.
- ➡ In 2014, DSCC became the single point of entry for Illinois children in need of in-home shift nursing.

# Home Care Populations



## ➡ Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Medically Fragile and Technology Dependent (MFTD)

- » Must have both medical & technology needs.
- » Must be less than 21 years of age at the time of enrollment.
- » May qualify regardless of parental income.
- » Participants enrolled in the waiver prior to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, & still receiving services on their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, may stay with Home Care for life.

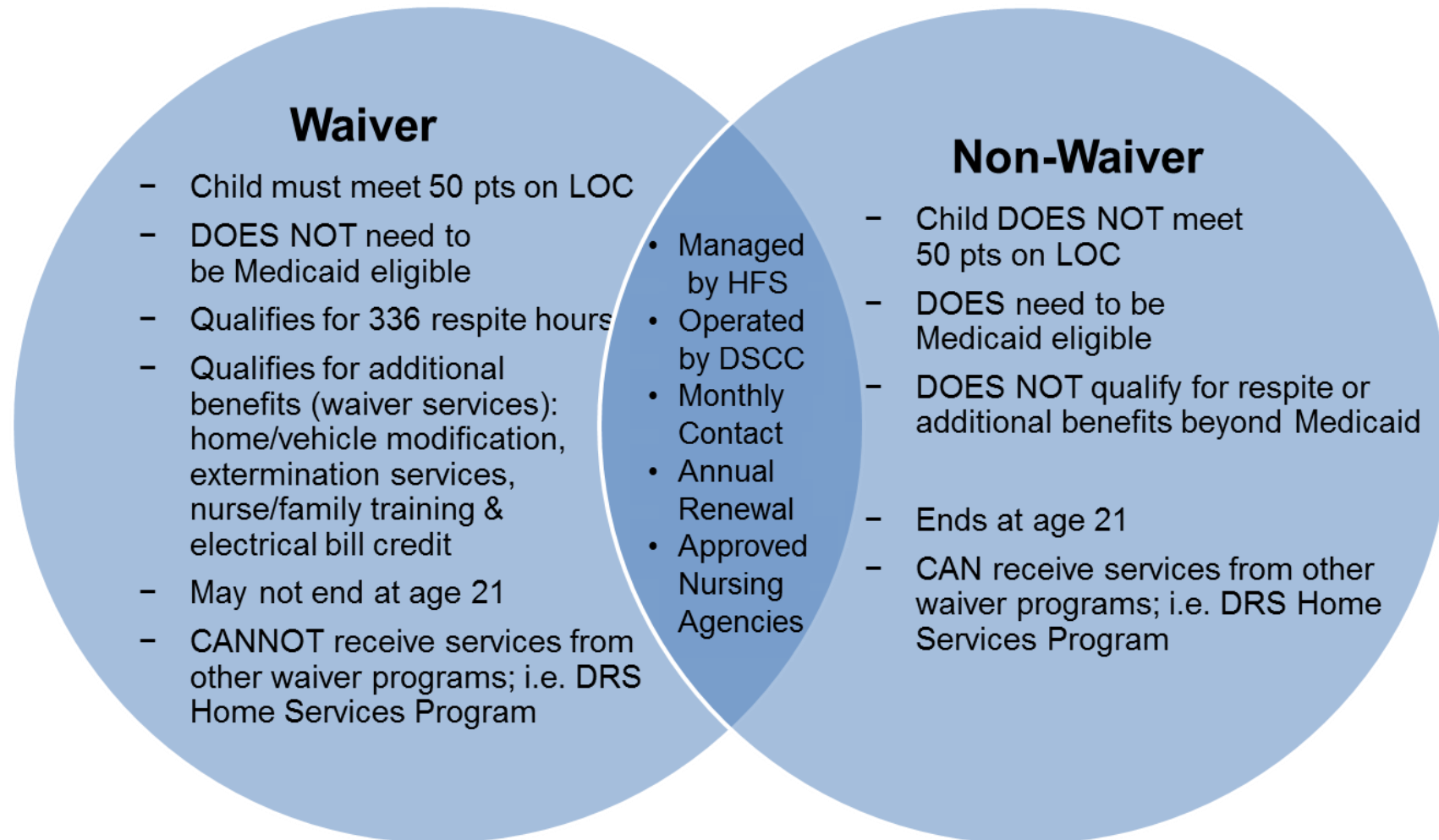
# Home Care Populations

## ➡ Non-Waiver (Nursing and Personal Care Services or NPCS)

- » Must have an identifiable need for in-home shift nursing, although typically less dependent on technology.
- » Must be less than 21 years of age.
- » Must be eligible for Medicaid.



# Home Care Services by Population



# Home Care Eligibility

➡ Illinois Residency

➡ Safe home

➡ Caregiver willing to learn and provide care

➡ Technology dependence, skilled nursing care requirement  
(examples include: Tracheostomy, Ventilator, Complex tube feeding, TPN, Oxygen, Bipap/CPAP, Peritoneal Dialysis)



# Home Care Services

- ➡ Care coordination
- ➡ Environmental & vehicle modifications
- ➡ In-home shift nursing
- ➡ Respite
- ➡ Specialized training of nurses
- ➡ Special equipment and supplies
- ➡ Family training
  - » Treatment regimens
  - » Use of medical equipment specified in the plan of care
  - » CPR
- ➡ Child / family counseling

# Home Care Enrollment

- Referral received
- Family contacted paperwork signed
- Home, Community, and Family Assessment Completed
- Nursing Agency identified
- Medical stability, family training, and discharge date established
- Obtain medical documentation to support care needs
- Submit application to HFS for review
- HFS approval and allocation
- Nurse recruitment

# Challenges

- ➔ Availability of home nurses
- ➔ COVID
- ➔ Complexity of care
- ➔ Geographic location
- ➔ Home environments
- ➔ Housing
- ➔ Training
- ➔ Medical instability
- ➔ Limited transitional beds
- ➔ Family/social issues

# We're Here to Help

Care coordination is free for all DSCC participants, regardless of family income.

If a child's condition is not listed in our eligible categories, we still can help.

- » Many children have associated conditions with their diagnosis that may be eligible.
- » Our staff is always ready to assist with referrals and resources.



# Our Impact

➡ Our care coordination helps families:

- » Feel more confident & organized in their child's care.
- » Understand & stay at the center of decisions about their child's care.
- » Develop a stronger partnership with their child's doctors & specialists.
- » Effectively navigate the maze of resources & insurance coverage.



# Our Families

## The Whitted Family

“It’s not just a service that’s provided, it’s information on the diagnoses. It’s almost like a translator to the medical world... You realize how valuable it is to be able to speak with someone who knows about different programs and support groups.”

- Nedra Whitted, grandmother of Stanton, in the Core Program

### Family Video



# Applications & Referrals

- ➡ Call us at (800) 322-3722
  - » Caregiver's name
  - » Phone number
  - » Child's address
  - » County or zip code
- ➡ Visit our website
  - » Download PDF application
  - » Fill out "Refer a Family" form
- ➡ Find a local regional office
  - » <https://dsccl.uic.edu/find-an-office>



For Providers
<i>Provider Application</i>
<i>Reimbursement Information</i>
<i>Explanation of Provider Payments</i>
<i>Provider Forms</i>
<i>Tools &amp; Resources</i>
<i>Provider Portal</i>
<i>Refer A Family</i>

# Connect with Us

- ➔  (800) 322-3722
- ➔  [dsc@uic.edu](mailto:dsc@uic.edu)
- ➔  [dsc.uic.edu](http://dsc.uic.edu)
- ➔  UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children

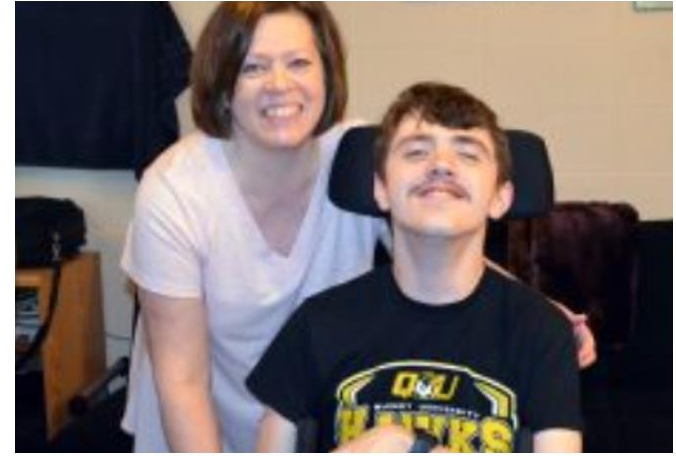






UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS CHICAGO**

## **Division of Specialized Care for Children**



# **Thank you!**

# Announcements

- Next webinar is March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024!
- Slides posted on CountyCare Care Coordination Webpage:
  - <http://www.countycare.com/carecoordination>
- Have feedback? Please share.
  - <https://redcap.link/23k1fzzb>



- Please email questions/concerns: [raphael.daniels@cookcountyhealth.org](mailto:raphael.daniels@cookcountyhealth.org)

