Directions for Youth & Families
A Resiliency-Oriented/ Trauma-Informed Agency

Resiliency

the ability to return to being healthy & hopeful after difficult things happen in your life.

Trauma

any past event, situation, or experience resulting in distress.

We believe all individuals have rights and a voice in treatment that will be met with respect and dignity.

We believe children and families thrive best in physically and emotionally safe environments.

We believe all children and families have unique strengths, abilities, and talents and that with the right supports and encouragement youth can achieve their full potential.

We know parent/caregiver involvement is critical in helping children learn to interact in a healthy way with others, manage their emotions, and communicate their feelings and needs.

DFYF is accredited by: the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services (COA)

DFYF is certified by: Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Department

DFYF is a member of:
- Family Service Council of Ohio
- Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers
- Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations

DFYF collaborations include:
- United Way of Central Ohio
- ADAMH Board of Franklin County
- Franklin Co Dept of Job & Family Services
- City of Columbus
- Franklin County Juvenile Court
- Ohio Attorney General’s Office
- Columbus City Schools
- South-Western City Schools
- The Columbus Foundation
- The Ohio State University
- YMCA of Central Ohio

DFYF offers a wide variety of programs to help South-Western City Schools students who require behavioral or mental health intervention to increase academic success.

DFYF is 1 of 27 members of The National Crittenton Foundation family of agencies. Operating in 31 states, DFYF is the only one in Ohio.

Main Office:
1515 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201
P. 614.294.2661 • F. 614.294.3247
www.dfyf.org • intake@dfyf.org

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**SCHOOL CONNECTIONS**

**PROGRAM DETAILS:**

- Clinicians meet with students in schools and provide limited home-based services during breaks.
- Referrals are made by school administration and staff for behavioral and/or emotional issues.
- Parents/caregivers are informed that their child is being referred to the School Connections Program by the school principal or a contact person at the school.
- Clinician will meet with caregivers and student to identify needs through a mental health assessment and establish goals on an Individualized Treatment Plan.
- Program is approximately a 9 to 12 month duration depending on the needs of the student.
- Trauma and resiliency-based counseling.
- Strongly supports a collaborative relationship with the school and family to assist youth in meeting their full potential. The main focus is to bridge the gap between the different domains of a child’s life to create a well-rounded individual.

**Fees:**
- Medicaid will cover fees for eligible students.
- If the student is not eligible for Medicaid, services may be provided on a sliding fee scale based on a financial assessment and private insurance.

**SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

**Kindergarten to 4th Grade**
- Raising self-esteem and building confidence
- Managing anger
- Managing feelings
- Building life and social skills
- Improving school performance and behavior
- Improving communication skills
- Dealing with grief and loss issues
- Learning decision-making skills
- Building relationships through positive interactions with family and peers
- Learning positive coping skills

**Intermediate, Middle, High School**
- Raising self-esteem and building confidence
- Managing feelings in a healthy way (anger, sadness, anxiety)
- Reducing self-harm behaviors
- Dealing with grief and loss issues (death, divorce, relocation)
- Improving school performance and behavior
- Resolving conflict
- Learning positive decision-making (including avoiding peer pressure)
- HOPE Curriculum (Health & Opioid Prevention Education)

In addition to individual services, we have group counseling for specific target groups which are held at the school.

Groups offered through school based programs include:
- Self-Esteem
- Grief and Loss
- Anger Management
- Social Skills
- Improving Impulsiveness, Concentration and Decision Making

Some youth can benefit from a group experience that provides an opportunity to express their feelings, fears, and pain, and to receive emotional support from their peers who share similar experiences.