



To: Texas Judges Who Hear CPS Cases

From: The Honorable Robin Sage and The Honorable Dean Rucker,
Jurists in Residence, Supreme Court Children's Commission

Date: April 14, 2016

RE: STAR Health Enhancements

STAR Health, the comprehensive managed care organization that delivers healthcare to children in the Texas foster care system, recently added new services for foster youth, and new training opportunities for providers. In addition to the healthcare benefits and services in place since 2008, STAR Health now offers the following value-added services to all children in DFPS conservatorship:

STAR HEALTH ENHANCEMENTS		
	CARE GRANTS	\$100 per member, per year for non-Medicaid covered items that benefit the child's well-being (school supplies, art therapy kit)
	EXPANDED VISION	\$100 above the existing Medicaid benefit for features or frames not covered by Medicaid
	OTC MEDICATIONS	\$30 per member, per quarter toward over the counter medication delivery through a mail order program
	CENTACCOUNT	Walmart gift card account for young adults age 18-21 who complete wellness visits, dental checkups, flu shots, & other health screenings
	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	Annual membership fee for members ages 6-18
	SPORTS / CAMP PHYSICALS	Pays for physicals for members ages 4-18
	7-DAY FOLLOW UP INCENTIVES	Gift card or teddy bear incentive (as age appropriate) once per year for attending the recommended 7-day follow up visit after an inpatient stay
	ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES	Access to mystrength.com, an interactive web and mobile application platform that helps improve mental health and overall wellbeing

STAR Health also offers a set of case by case services, when needed:

1. Psychiatric hospital diversion (PHD) programs intervene with youth in crisis prior to entering psychiatric hospitalization. One example is Turning Point, a pilot PHD program in the Fort Worth area, that addresses each mental health crisis with the following components:

- Mobile Crisis Outreach Team: a licensed professional comes to the home immediately, evaluates the child in crisis, and assists with stabilization.
- Group home site: if stabilization in the home cannot be achieved, a group home setting provides crisis stabilization treatment such as intensive outpatient group programming and individual and family therapy while services and training are provided to the family for up to 14 days.
- Child psychiatrist: provides medication oversight and management and clinical direction.

This program successfully diverted 102 children and youth from psychiatric inpatient stays in 2015, and another 51 in the first quarter of 2016 alone. The program also greatly reduces the likelihood a child or youth will admit to an inpatient facility after using this program. Due to the high level of success seen from this pilot program, STAR Health will be developing 3 additional PHD programs within the next year. San Antonio's site opened March 1, Houston's site is expected to open in April, and a third site within Region 2/9 that is not yet determined is expected to open in July.

2. Children with Primary Medical Needs (PMN) require extra supports in order to be safely transported to a new placement. STAR Health offers the following supports to any child with PMN whose condition is staffed in advance.

- Arrangement of prior-authorized non-emergency transportation to the new placement,
- Payment for costs of professional assembly and disassembly of durable medical equipment during the transition,
- Provision of skilled nursing services during transportation to the new placement, if medically necessary, and
- Provision of up to a 48-hour observation stay in an inpatient setting when placement or supports are not immediately in place during an emergent transition.

Other enhancements to the STAR Health program include:

- **Provider Training:** STAR Health trains and certifies their providers in evidence-based practices such as Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).
- **Transitioning Youth Program (TYP):** Young adults in foster care who are approaching age 18 require additional education and supports to understand their rights and responsibilities as adults. Through TYP, the STAR Health service management team will provide outreach, education and assistance, including:
 - Health and wellness education, such as self-management,
 - Identifying adult healthcare providers,
 - Transitioning from STAR Health to other Medicaid programs, and
 - Ensuring the young adult, their caregiver, and DFPS are aware of all available programs, services, and supports.

- **Health Passport:** Health Passport is an electronic health record that is populated with claims data for visits, labs, prescriptions, and immunizations. Effective September 1, 2015, all users are now able to view Health Passport from their mobile device. In addition, the following features have been added:
 - A record of future scheduled appointments,
 - Notification that members are enrolled in special programs such as TYP,
 - Integration with some providers’ electronic medical records,
 - A comprehensive caseworker patient list,
 - A record of provider referrals,
 - An interactive growth chart to display height and weight entries, and
 - The medication day supply will be included with prescription details.

Judicial Point of Contact

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STAR Health Staff will respond to general questions within five business days and contact the Requesting Judge for additional information if needed.