Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team

Located at
1315 S. Allen St.
Suite 105
State College, PA 16801
814-826-4840

Serving:
Blair, Bradford, Centre, Clinton,
Huntington, Juniata, Lycoming,
Mifflin, Sullivan and Tioga
counties
Due to the integrated approach of treatment, which includes the individual and his/her family as well as state and county agencies, the team is comprised of highly skilled clinical and support staff, including:

- A psychiatrist
- A program director
- A behavior specialist (psychologist or master’s level therapist)
- Nurses
- Recovery coordinators
- A consulting pharmacist
- Administrative support

The Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team (DDTT) is a service delivery model first created by the Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania (BHARP).

Beacon Light provides a DDTT team covering the central counties of Blair, Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, and Mifflin.

In addition to adults, we are now able to accept transition age youth 16-17 years, with OMHSAS approval. Criteria for admission is the same for the 18+ population: individuals must be dually diagnosed with MH/ID, history of inpatient hospitalization, risk of losing community placement, history of incarceration, with addition of frequent RTF admissions, juvenile detention center placements, risk of losing educational placement due to behaviors.

The goal of DDTT involvement is to keep individuals in their home/community environment and to divert them from inpatient hospital admissions or incarceration.

The psychiatrist-led team of clinicians provides assessment, medication management, crisis intervention, integrated case management, and behavioral support planning to keep the individual from being placed in a state hospital or other long-term inpatient setting.

The team works closely with Beacon Light’s Community Stabilization and Reintegration Unit (CSRU) in McClure, PA to assist clients who may need short-term stabilization before or after their DDTT treatment.

The DDTT treatment model has a maximum length of stay of 18 months, with a goal of achieving results within 12 months.

Program Highlights

DDTT is an intensive, specialized program that combines the best of both systems (Mental Health & Intellectual Disability) to address the complex needs of a challenging and underserved population.

- Highly trained team of clinicians with education and experience in both MH and ID enables more comprehensive, integrated care
- Low staff to consumer ratio ensures accessibility and frequent contact
- 24/7 on-call service availability promotes community tenure and stabilization

Admission Criteria

- Adult, 18 years or older and transition youth 16-17 years old
- Present with intellectual and developmental disability documented prior to age 18
- Present with co-occurring mental illness, as defined by DSM-V
- Meet medical necessity criteria for Blended Case Management
- Be at-risk for losing current community placement (ex: state hospital or center admission, criminal detention, multiple inpatient admissions)
- Multiple behavioral health inpatient admissions within the last year
- Utilization and exhaustion of lower levels of care
- Exclusionary criteria: individual may be considered inappropriate for DDTT if he/she is actively suicidal, actively psychotic or has a medical condition that requires care beyond the scope of DDTT

Referral Process

Referrals can be made by provider agencies, family members, and other community sources. Each county will have a designated point person to oversee the referral process. Upon receipt of the referral, the point person notifies representatives from:

- Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)
- Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)
- Community Care Behavioral Health
- Positive Practices Resource Team (PPRT), if current PPRT referral exists
- Community Stabilization and Re-Integration Unit (CSRU), if clinically appropriate