PROJECT NAME:  
*Ready for Home*

TARGET POPULATION:
- Children and youth in residential placement at Elmcrest Children’s Center.
- Child or youth with identified discharge resource. This could include birth parents, step parents, extended family, siblings, foster parents, adoptive parents, clergy, mentors, or other people the child identifies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
- Ready for Home will provide counseling and skill-focused services to families and youth placed in Elmcrest’s residential care settings. The goal is to prepare youth and family for the youth’s return home, so youth can return to their homes more quickly.
- The program will consist of two skill builders, two clinicians, and a program supervisor.
- Program clinicians and Skill builders will begin working with the families/youth as soon as youth comes into care, and will continue to work with the families/youth 3 months after the youth is discharged home.
- Services will be provided to families and youth at their homes and at agreed upon places in community.

**Skill builders will:**
- Help youth learn new skills to maintain safe behavior within the home, community, and school.
- Educate parents on effective behavioral approaches to successfully manage challenging behaviors.
- Engage youth in community-based activities; provide transportation and supervision as needed.
- Provide mentoring services to youth.
- Educate older youth about career options and assist with job placement.

**Clinicians will:**
- Provide in-home counseling/support to families and siblings of youth in care at least 3 times per month.
- Help families understand youth’s behaviors and provide them with effective tools to manage them.
- Make referrals for ongoing services and community supports for youth and families.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:
- Children and youth will have a shorter length of stay at Elmcrest’s Residential Treatment Center.
- Behavior in school will improve, placing youth in a better position for academic success.
- Children’s and youth’s ability to control behaviors and apply coping skills within the home will increase.
- Children and youth will increase participation in community and recreational activities.
- Youth will learn skills that will assist them in getting and maintaining a job.
- Parents will gain a better understanding of their children’s challenging behaviors and learn successful ways of managing those behaviors.

REFERRAL PROCESS:
All referrals come through Onondaga County Department of Social Service (limited to children in DSS placement at Elmcrest)

Contact Elmcrest Ready for Home Supervisor, Jaime Staiger, with any questions regarding the program.
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