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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State/Territory: Georgia

CHILDREN AT-RISK CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

A. Target Group:

Medicaid eligible children, ages 0-21, who are "at-risk" of not completing a secondary education program because they exhibit five or more of the following characteristics:

1. Developmental screen indicates the child is not meeting developmental milestones.
2. No Health Check initial screen, no periodic screening or inadequate health care.
3. Few friends or school alienation.
4. Little or no extracurricular involvement.
5. Frequent disciplinary referrals.
6. Dysfunctional home situation.
7. Mental health diagnosis.
8. Single parent family.
9. One or more grade retentions.
10. Born to teenage parent(s).
11. Born to a parent who has not completed high school.
12. Five or more unexcused absences in any one twenty (20) day attendance period.
13. Limited English proficiency.
14. One or more years below grade placement in reading or math.
15. Free or reduced price lunch.
16. Lack of appropriate physical necessities (clothing, proper hygiene, etc.
17. Residing in home situation with guardian or caretaker other than natural parent(s).
18. History of substance abuse, Juvenile Court involvement, or at risk for sexually transmitted disease.
19. Low achievement test scores (35th percentile and below on Iowa Test of Basis Skills (ITBS) or Test of Achievement and Proficiency (TAP), low grades (failing two or more academic subjects in a grading period), or repeated two or more grades.
20. History of exposure to direct or indirect violence.
21. History of sexual or physical abuse or neglect.

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B. Areas of State in which services will be provided:

Entire State

Only in the following geographic areas (authority of Section 1915(g)(1) of the Act is invoked to provide services less than statewide): Ben Hill County

C. Comparability of Services

Services are provided in accordance with Section 1902(a)(10)(B) of the Act.

Services are not comparable in amount, duration, and scope. Authority of Section 1915(g)(1) of the Act is invoked to provide services without regard to the requirements of Section 1902(a)(10)(B) of the Act.

D. Definition of Services:

Children at-risk case management is a set of interrelated activities for identifying, coordinating, and reviewing the delivery of appropriate services for eligible at-risk children.

The purpose of case management services is to assist those targeted at-risk children in gaining access to needed medical, nutritional, social, educational, transportation, housing and other services; and to encourage the use of various community resources through referral to appropriate providers.

Case Management services will provide necessary coordination with providers of health, family support, employment, justice, housing, counseling, nutrition, social, educational, transportation, and other services when needed.

The set of interrelated activities are as follows:

1. Establishing the comprehensive case file for development and implementation of an individualized service plan to meet the assessed service needs of the eligible child. Establishing priorities for initial linkages with providers. This unit of service may be billed only once for each recipient.
2. Assistance to the eligible child in locating needed service providers and making the necessary linkages to assure the receipt of services identified in the service plan.

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D. Definition of Services: (continued)

3. Monitoring and follow-up with the eligible child and service providers to determine that the services received are adequate in meeting the child's assessed needs. Case management follow-up services are limited to 12 units annually.
4. Reassessment of eligible children to determine the services needed to resolve any crisis situation resulting from divorce, death, separation, family structure changes, changes in living conditions, or other events.

E. Qualification of Providers:

1. Provider Qualifications

Enrollment will be accomplished in accordance with Section 1962(a)(23) of the Act. Enrollment is open to all providers who can meet the following requirements:

- a. Must have the capacity to provide the full range of at-risk case management services.
- b. Must meet the applicable state and federal laws governing the participation of providers in the Medicaid program.
- c. Must have demonstrated direct experience in the coordination of educational support services (e.g., EPSDT, Social Services, Counseling Services, Psychological Services, Student Assistance, Special Education, and Nutritional Services).
- d. Must have demonstrated the ability to obtain collaboration between public and private service providers.
- e. In order to avoid duplication of services and to promote effective community level networking, case management providers must have a signed collaborative agreement with the Ben Hill County Health Department, Ben Hill County Department of Family and Children Services, Ben Hill County Public Schools, Ben Hill County Mental Health, Ben Hill County Commissioners, City of Fitzgerald, and Ben Hill County Department of Juvenile Justice..

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E. Qualification of Providers: (continued)

- f. Case Management Supervisor must hold a Bachelor's Degree in a human services field; i.e., public and social services, counseling, humanities and have three years of experience working with a diverse population of low income children and their families.
- g. Case Managers must have high school diploma or its equivalency, have a minimum of two years experience working with children and families from various racial and ethnic groups and be familiar with the Ben Hill community and the services provided.
- h. Case Managers must complete a pre-service training program and a Family Connection designed and supervised practice experience.

F. The state assures that the provision of case management services will not restrict an individual's free choice of providers in violations of Section 1902(a)(23) of the Act.

- 1. Eligible recipients will have free choice of the providers of case management services.
- 2. Eligible recipients will have free choice of the providers of other medical care under the plan.

G. Payment for case management services under the plan does not duplicate payments made to public agencies or private entities under other program authorities for this same purpose. Reimbursement methodology is found in Attachment 4.19-B, pages 5d and 5e.

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