



Perseus House Shelter Program
1510 State Street
Erie, Pennsylvania, 16501
814-480-5902

I. PURPOSE

Our aim is to effectively intervene in the lives of adolescent males and females to assist them in avoiding future contact with the juvenile and/or adult court system and to help them toward successful adulthood. The goal of facilitating successful adjustment is accomplished with an approach designed to strengthen the resident's sense of ethics, accountability, competency, victim empathy and community protection. Strengthening parent/child relationships is also a key focus.

II. PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Our mission is to serve youth and families through evidence based programming designed to promote pro-social behavior and healthy lifestyles.

Our mission is supported by our established Values as we help adolescents address identified treatment areas through interventions that include: assessment, counseling, behavior management, education and social skills development. Attitudes toward and behavior supportive of physical, emotional, intellectual, psychological, and spiritual spheres of productive health are incorporated into daily living.

It is our position that a period of external discipline and assistance, albeit temporary, is at times necessary in a residential context to interrupt maladaptive patterns of thought and behaviors in order to provide the wherewithal for a new beginning.

III. ADMISSION CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

Individuals who are eligible for program services meet the following inclusionary criteria:

1. Dependent and delinquent males and females.
2. Between the ages of 10 – 18.
3. May have substance use/abuse/dependency issues.
4. May be in need of shelter services.

Individuals that are not eligible for admission are:

1. Individuals in need of detoxification (may be considered for admission upon medical clearance).
2. Actively psychotic and in need of inpatient hospitalization (may be considered for admission upon stabilization).
3. Historically and seriously violent.
4. Mentally retarded (generally defined as recent Intelligence Quotient testing below 70 within the past year).

Continued Stay Criteria:

1. Awaiting dispositional hearing for court processing.
2. Awaiting placement following result of disposition.

IV. SERVICE COMPONENTS

SHELTER

The shelter component addresses those adolescents, adjudicated delinquent or dependent, who need a secure setting to stabilize behavior and assessment to assist the court regarding recommendations for disposition.

PROGRAMMING

Programming would be specifically designed to provide shelter services and a staff secure environment to await court disposition.

- A. Group Counseling: Group counseling occurs to help competency development with peers and adults.
- B. Education: Education services are provided within the facility through a tutorial model by the Erie School District. Each resident is eligible to receive an individual tutor through our office of tutorial services.
- C. Family Visitation: Approved family visitors will be permitted Tuesday through Sunday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- D. Peer Socialization: Includes group and recreational activities, development of constructive interests, and special task completion.
- E. Recreational Therapy: Weekly recreational therapy sessions to develop skills in cooperative, noncompetitive relationships.
- F. Behavior Management System: Includes a highly structured system of privileges and consequences for personal accountability of behavior.
- G. Basic Living Skills Education: Includes cooking, cleaning, budget management, basic household maintenance, laundry and personal hygiene
- H. Medical/Dental Care: Includes a medical examination within the first seven days of admission and follow-up care. Nutrition counseling and education is provided by our Nutritional Consultant on an individual and group basis.
- I. Nursing Component: An onsite nurse is available to provide screening, evaluation, psychiatric coordination, medication distribution, and ongoing consultation related to the physical health of our residents.
- J. Psychiatric Care: Includes follow-up and ongoing care of those in need of mental health services with the client's current psychiatrist.
- K. Ancillary Services: Includes arranging for services that may be at the court's request, i.e. psychiatric, psychological evaluation, drug and alcohol assessment, Wraparound referral, etc.

V. PROVIDER/AGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Perseus House Shelter staff will coordinate transition plans with the appropriate County Court representative.

VI. DISCHARGE CRITERIA

A. Positive Discharge Criteria:

A resident will be discharged at the time the court determines necessary.

B. Precipitous Discharge Criteria:

When one of the following conditions exists:

1. The staff feels that the continuation of placement will seriously jeopardize the healthy development of the resident.
2. Serious danger to another exists.
3. Serious danger to self exists.
4. Resident's possession and/or use of items classified as contraband by Perseus House, Inc.