



Do you work with D.C. children with unmet mental health needs?

Hundreds of D.C. children with behavior problems don't get the community-based services they need. As a result, nearly 500 D.C. children are stuck in restrictive out-of-state residential treatment centers (RTCs) and many more are at risk of being placed in RTCs or psychiatric hospitals.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Even children with the most challenging problems can live stable, successful lives at home or with a foster family. Wraparound services, behavioral aides, mentors, crisis intervention and avoidance, and other services are proven approaches to meeting children's mental health needs.

You may know a child or a family who needs help.

Do you know a child who isn't getting the services they need?

- Is the child about to be discharged from a psychiatric hospital or a residential treatment center (RTC)?
- Is hospitalization or residential treatment being considered?
- Has the child had multiple placements—in psychiatric hospitals, RTCs, foster or group homes—because of her or his unmet needs?

Is the child:

- Eligible for Medicaid, and
- Between the ages of 1 and 21.

The Bazelon Center may be able to help.

A new project at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law seeks to provide individual representation to children with behavioral problems who are not receiving appropriate mental health services and are at risk of institutionalization. We'll work to secure appropriate existing services and collaborate to create systemic change through on-going advocacy efforts and pending class action litigation.

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