



Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)
Mary E. Samples, Assistant Superintendent
www.venturacountyselpa.com

Parent Information Sheet for Children and Youth in Short Term Psychiatric Care: What are My Next Steps?

Having a child hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital can be a confusing time for families. This information sheet was designed to help you work with the hospital case management staff and others to help you decide on the next steps to get the treatment and services your child needs.

Does your child have a mental health therapist or is your child a client of county mental health - Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) or LA County Department of Mental Health (LADMH)?

If no...

If you are Medi-Cal eligible, you may consider calling your county mental health department. If you live in Ventura County, call the VCBH Screening, Triage, Assessment and Referral (STAR) office at 1-866-998-2243 to refer your child for mental health services. For Los Angeles County, call the LADMH Access Center 24/7 Helpline at 1-800-854-7771. If you have private insurance, contact your insurance company about services. If not insured call 2-1-1 for a list of low cost counseling options.

If yes...

Contact your child's therapist as soon as possible and let him/her know that your child has been hospitalized. Make sure they contact the hospital Case Manager and work with you to discuss options for "next steps." Ask the hospital case manager for and sign a consent form to allow hospital staff to discuss your child with your child's therapist.

Is your child in special education? (With an IEP)?

If no...

It is a good idea to call the school counselor, psychologist or teacher to let him or her know that your child has been in a psychiatric hospital. Describe the reason for the hospitalization and discuss with him or her any accommodations, services or supports that might be needed to help your child be successful in school. Ask the hospital case manager for and sign a consent form to allow hospital staff to discuss your child with pertinent school staff. Schools may have a variety of options available including informal groups and clubs, short term "topic" groups and more intensive counseling for various issues. If necessary, a "504 Plan" may be developed to make accommodations for your child's mental health needs.

If you think your child may have a chronic disability or condition that is impacting his or her performance in school, and he or she requires Special Education services such as special classes, counseling or behavior supports, you may want to talk to a representative of the school or school district about making a referral for Special Education assessment. If you are ready to go ahead with a request for assessment, you need to put the request in writing and give it to either the principal or school psychologist at the school. On the reverse of this sheet is a contact number for people in each school district who can help you make a referral and answer any questions about Special Education.

Some children and youth have social and emotional problems that occur in the home and/or community settings, but still do well in the school setting. These children would not be considered eligible for Special Education services.

If yes...

Be sure to let your child's School Counselor or Special Education Case Manager know that your child has been hospitalized. If you are not sure who the Case Manager is, look for the name and phone number on the front page of the IEP, or call the district contact person. Ask the School Counselor or Case Manager to get in touch with the case manager at the hospital to discuss "next steps." Ask the hospital case manager for and sign a consent form to allow hospital staff to discuss your child with pertinent school staff.

For some children, the IEP that is in place is adequate, even though an incident occurred which resulted in the hospitalization. In this case, you would return the child to school after the hospitalization and agree to continue to implement the IEP as written. For others, you may feel that the IEP is not adequate to address the child's needs. You may want the IEP team to consider different or additional services, such as a different type of class or school to address his or her psychiatric needs. There are counseling and behavioral services that are available through Special Education. If you would like to discuss revising your child's IEP, request an IEP review by putting a memo or note in writing to the Special Education Case Manager. The IEP review must be held within 30 days of your written request (during regular school sessions).

If there is an issue of your child's safety, be sure to let the Case Manager know and ask him or her to convene the meeting as soon as possible. *If you feel your child or family are in danger at any time, do not hesitate to call the Children's Intensive Response Team (CIRT) for 24 hour crisis help. 1-866-431-CIRT (2478) – Ventura County only.*

Is your child Chapter 26.5/AB3632 eligible (special education students only)?

If no...

You may want to ask the IEP team to consider a referral to the county mental health department for services provided in conjunction with the special educational program. If eligible, your child's mental health services would become part of the IEP, and the Special Education Case Manager would work closely with the Mental Health therapist and family to address your child's emotional and learning needs.

If yes...

Be sure to contact your child's Mental Health therapist and let him/her know that your child has been hospitalized. They will work with you, the hospital case manager, and school staff to plan "next steps" for your child.

What about residential placement?

Residential placement would only be considered after a variety of less intensive options within the school and home setting had been attempted. Residential placement would only be implemented for an agreed-upon short term (about six months), with frequent “check ins” to see how your child is doing.

For children who are Chapter 26.5/AB3632 eligible, an expanded IEP team meeting would be held including representatives of the county mental health department, to consider the appropriateness of placement. If the team agrees that a residential placement is necessary, the educational services would be arranged and paid for by the school district where you live, and the Mental Health supports provided by county Mental Health.

If you place your child in a residential placement without agreement of the school district or county Mental Health, you would be responsible to pay for services that your child receives. If you place your child in a residential facility and then ask the school district and county Mental Health to pay for it, you will be required to make your child available for the assessment process of those agencies. There is no assurance that the school district and county mental health will agree to fund residential placement. You must give the district ten working days notice if you intend to place your child in a residential placement and expect the district to pay for it. Failure to give ten days notice may severely restrict your ability to receive reimbursement of costs.

Even if a professional has suggested leaving your child so that Child Protective Services will find a placement, please be aware that child abandonment is not lawful. Failure to pick him or her up may result in your child becoming a dependent of the Juvenile Court and you may be responsible for the cost of your child’s placement.

If you have more questions about Special Education, go to the Ventura County website www.venturacountyselpa.com. You will find much helpful information under “Information for Families” including a brochure called “AB3632? AB2726? Chapter 26.5?” services. Or, call (805) 437-1560.

For more information about Mental Health services, call:

Ventura: (805) 289-3100	Oxnard: (805) 981-8460
Thousand Oaks: (805) 777-3505	Simi Valley: (805) 582-7507
Fillmore: (805) 524-8660	
Los Angeles County/Agoura/Calabasas: 1 (800) 854-7771	

Need a Parent to Talk to?

United Parents
391 S. Dawson Drive, Suite 1A
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 384-1555

Rainbow Family Resource Center (for families of children with developmental disabilities or autism)
240 E. Gonzales Rd., Suite 100
Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 485-9643 or (800) 332-3679
(805) 485-9892 – Spanish

For more information about this brochure contact Fran Arner-Costello, Director of Programs and Services at (805) 437-1560 or at farnerco@vcoe.org. It is also posted on our website under “Resources for Families” as well as “Serious Behavior.”

School District Contacts for Special Education

Briggs School District

Superintendent
12465 Foothill Rd.
Santa Paula, Ca 93060
Phone: 933-2254 Fax: 933-1111

Conejo Valley Unified School District

Director of Special Education
1400 East Janss Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
Phone: 497-9511 ext. 221
Fax: 497-8058

Fillmore Unified School District

Coordinator of Special Education
Post Office Box 697
Fillmore, CA 93016
Phone: 524-6033 Fax: 524-6081

Hueneme Elementary School District

Senior Director, Pupil Support Services
205 N. Ventura Rd
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Phone: 488-3588 ext. 9300
Fax: 488-1402

Las Virgenes Unified School District

Susan Curtis
Director of Special Pupil Services
4111 North Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
Phone: (818) 878-5243
Fax: (818) 878-0601

Mesa Union School District

Superintendent
3901 North Mesa School Road
Somis, CA 93066
Phone: 485-1411 Fax: 445-4387

Moorpark Unified School District

Director of Special Education
5297 Maureen Lane
Moorpark, CA 93021
Phone: 531-6418 Fax: 530-3885

Mupu School District

Resource Specialist
4410 North Ojai Rd.
Santa Paula, CA 93060
Phone: 525-0422 Fax: 525-2871

Oak Park Unified School District

Director of Pupil Services
5801 East Conifer
Oak Park, CA 91301
Phone: (818) 735-3208
Fax: (818) 735-3243

Ocean View School District

Coordinator of Psychological Services
4200 Olds Road
Oxnard, CA 93033
Phone: 986-6778 Fax: 986-6797

Ojai Unified School District

Director of Special Education
Post Office Box 878
Ojai, CA 93023
Phone: 640-4300 ext. 1054
Fax: 640-4321

Oxnard Elementary School District

Director of Special Education
Administrator of Pupil Services
1051 South "A" Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
Phone: 487-3918 ext. 535
Fax: 487-9648

Oxnard Union High School District

Director of Special Education
309 South "K" Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
Phone: 385-2829 Fax: 385-2833

Pleasant Valley School District

Director of Pupil Services
600 Temple Avenue
Camarillo, CA 93010
Phone: 445-8676 Fax: 445-8808

Rio School District

Director of Pupil Personnel Services
2500 Vineyard Ave
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 485-3111 x123 Fax: 981-2140

Santa Clara School District

Principal/Teacher
20030 East Telegraph Road
Santa Paula, CA 93060
Phone: 525-4573 Fax: 525-4985

Santa Paula Elementary School District

Assistant Superintendent, Student and Family Support Services
Post Office Box 710
Santa Paula, CA 93060
Phone: 933-8837 Fax: 525-3810

Santa Paula Union High School District

Director of Educational Services
404 North Sixth Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060
Phone: 525-4406 x222 Fax: 525-6797

Simi Valley Unified School District

Director of Student Support Services
875 East Cochran Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Phone: 306-4580 Fax: 520-6586

Somis Union School District

Superintendent
Post Office Box 900
Somis, CA 93066
Phone: 386-5711 x24 Fax: 386-4596

Ventura County County Office of Education

Executive Director, Special Education Department
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: 383-1924 Fax: 383-1915

Ventura Unified School District

Director, Specialized Student Support Services
255 W. Stanley Ave.
Ventura, CA 93001
Phone: 641-5000 x1123 Fax: 653-7849