Frequently Asked Questions

What is a mental illness?
A mental illness is a disease causing mild to severe disturbances in thought and/or behavior resulting in an inability to cope with life’s demands and routines.

What is a serious mental illness?
A serious mental illness includes both diagnosable mental health disorders and functional impairments significantly interfering with daily living.

What is a serious emotional disturbance?
A serious emotional disturbance is diagnosed in individuals under 18 who are experiencing mental health disorders and functional impairments significantly interfering with functioning in the community, school and family.

What is an assessment?
An assessment includes an interview with a trained clinician to review a person’s mental health and its impact on his or her daily life.

How are services determined?
A trained clinician recommends treatment services based on an assessment with the individual to best meet his or her needs.

How are services funded?
A variety of funding options are available for an individual who is assessed as needing services. Funding options include:

- Insurance
- Private pay
- Other 3rd party payers
- Combination of state and federal funding
- Medicaid

How do I qualify for state and federal funding?
Individuals who meet programmatic and financial eligibility may qualify for state funded services. The community mental health provider will assist the individual in completing the eligibility process.

Is there a program to help pay for medications?
The Indigent Medication Program provides temporary funding for medications to treat behavioral health disorders for individuals whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. For additional questions regarding the Indigent Medication Program, email dssbhindmed@state.sd.us or call 605.773.3123.

Contact Us

For more information or to ask questions, please contact the Division of Behavioral Health at dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/ or 1.855.878.6057.

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Español (Spanish) - ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).

Deutsch (German) - ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).
Mental Health Services

Community mental health centers in South Dakota provide quality services to both adults and youth. Services provided include screenings and assessments, case management, individual therapy, group therapy and crisis intervention. Individuals who meet programmatic and financial eligibility guidelines or who have considerable personal circumstances, may qualify for state funded services.

Outpatient Services
Outpatient mental health counseling services are provided to individuals of all ages.

Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Services
CYF services are specialized outpatient services provided to youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED). Services may include case management, individual, group and/or family counseling. Family counseling may include Functional Family Therapy, which is a strength-based model for building skills to help improve family relationships, reduce behavioral issues and improve school performance.

Comprehensive Assistance with Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Services
CARE services may include outpatient counseling, case management services and psychiatric medication management for adults with serious mental illness (SMI).

Individualized and Mobile Program of Assertive Community Treatment (IMPACT)
IMPACT services provide intensive outpatient counseling, case management services and psychiatric medication management for adults living with SMI.

Resources for Local Treatment Providers
- SAMHSA Treatment Locator - findtreatment.samhsa.gov/
- DSS - dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/agencycounty.aspx