

A woman with curly hair is holding a young child who is smiling and looking at the camera. They are outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background. Several bubbles are floating in the air around them. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

In-Home Youth Diversion – IHYD

Kristen Fischer – Program Manager
Heather Yaeger – Regional Director

In-Home Youth Diversion (IHYD)

- Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS), along with a consortium of counties (currently Sauk, Columbia, Juneau & Dodge), have established the In-Home Youth Diversion Program (referred to as IHYD).
- IHYD is an on-call service that provides emergency mental health support to families of youth up to age 18. The intention of the program is to allow the youth to remain in the home during a mental health emergency, reducing the number of youth that would potentially be hospitalized or are removed to a detention or out of home placement.
- The IHYD team, trained in DBT skills, provides services to families to assist with de-escalation, using a person-centered, trauma-informed approach. These services focus on family support, finding natural supports and teaching families basic techniques and tools that will help in future situations.

IHYD - “I think this is a service that needs to be utilized in every single county.”

What differentiates IHYD from crisis lines and services that counties already have in place?

- IHYD providers are experienced professionals who can engage and work with families during atypical service hours before situations rise to crisis level.
- The intent is for youth to be redirected by the IHYD worker, or the IHYD worker can talk parent/guardian through the situation with a youth. Boosting the ability of the family unit to deal with the issue can help avoid more serious interactions with police and youth justice systems.
- In identifying the need for our services, the program partners utilized both qualitative and anecdotal local data; most significantly the number of youth emergency detentions (ED) less than three days in length. It is widely agreed among the program partners and other members of the IHCS workgroup that those youth staying in an ED placement for less than three days may have been successfully diverted had a support designed to extend the work of the mobile crisis team been available to the family.

IHYD

- A crisis worker or other team member working with the youth will identify that youth could benefit from supportive services, to help with de-escalation, provide support upon discharge from hospitalization, or due to frequent crisis contact.
- If the family is interested in services the referring worker will reach out to our on-call staff or the program supervisor to verify that the youth would be an appropriate candidate for our services. We will also verify that the family is open to using our services, and is aware of how our services will take place. Since we are a voluntary program, the family must be willing to use our services.
- Typically, a call schedule is set up with the family, with the possibility for in-person check ins. The on-call team can also respond in person when requested by the family during periods of escalation or mental health emergency.

IHYD Impact

“I just wanted to share some feedback I received regarding the IHYD program. I am a HUGE supporter of the program and wish I would’ve utilized it more when I was a Youth Justice worker. I am the assigned worker for an enrolled teen and there has been a significant improvement between he and his mother. He said that some phone calls are brief because he’s busy with friends, but that brief phone call/support is exactly what he needs. I was struggling in this case and I think the IHYD program was the missing link. The mother said she utilized the service a few times when she really needed someone to talk to, and engaging with the IHYD worker provided the support she needed. It’s hard for me to explain how happy I was to hear all of this positive feedback from the family, and I wish you all could’ve heard all the positive things they had to say.”



Questions



Act compassionately. Serve humbly. Lead courageously.