



HOME FOR CHILDREN

Executive Administration

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Astor Now Provides All Children in Dutchess County with Mental Health Screening

Rhinebeck, NY – On April 2, 2007, The Astor Home for Children became the only mental health provider designated by the NY State Department of Mental Health to provide mental health screening of children (ages 2 – 17) in Dutchess County. Astor was selected as a provider for the new Child and Family Clinic Plus program (Clinic Plus), a statewide initiative by the Department of Mental Health to transform mental health services for children and families.

Clinic Plus is “unique” because it shifts mental health treatment from a focus primarily on high need children, to one of identifying children in need and intervening at an early stage. Early recognition ensures that developmental milestones are reached and healthy development is not hindered by un-addressed problems. With parents engaged in the process, comprehensive screenings and evaluations are conducted in schools, primary health care facilities, child welfare/foster care settings, and juvenile court/probation and detention centers.

Parents are already seeing the benefits of Clinic Plus. One parent from Poughkeepsie, NY explained, “It offers me and my daughter the support we need to deal with her disability. The program has helped...the techniques are working and she [her daughter] is getting a lot better.” While another parent whose child was recently admitted for treatment said, “It’s been good so far...the therapist introduced some coping skills and has shown us that there are a lot of options for my child.” This parent was able to get her child admitted for treatment because she first had her child screened. The results of the screening indicated a need to have her daughter further evaluated. Without the initial screening, her daughter would not have been recommended for the treatment she needs.

“We are excited about this new initiative and hope that we help more children and families than ever before!” says Konstantinos (Gus) Tsoubris, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director, Astor Community Based Services.

Individuals interested in getting more information about Clinic Plus can contact Dr. Tsoubris at (845) 452.5952 or Karen Trokan, LCSW, Children’s Services Coordinator at (845) 486.2765. A link with more information about the program can be found on the Astor website at: www.astorservices.org/community.php#clinicplus

Astor, as it has since 1953, promotes the well-being of children, adolescents and their families through a range of programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development. Now serving over 6,000 children and families annually, Astor’s current range of services to families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx include: Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Family Care, Early Childhood Programs, and Community Based Mental Health and Educational Services. For additional information about The Astor Home for Children, please visit their website - www.astorservices.org - or contact The Astor Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871.1117.