

Proposed SED Definition
January 22, 2010
BHB Kids Definition Subgroup

PURPOSE: To ensure that children and adolescents with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), or who are most at risk of experiencing SED, are promptly and accurately identified.

To ensure that children and adolescents are offered the full array of appropriate and available community based behavioral health services necessary to support age appropriate social, emotional and behavioral development so they may succeed at home, in school /child care settings and the community from birth through transition to adulthood.

DEFINITION: CHILDREN OR ADOLESCENT WITH MENTAL / EMOTIONAL DISORDER

- I. 0 years of age through 17 years of age (youth aged 18-21 years who are enrolled in high school, in Department of Youth Services or Children Services custody or when it is otherwise developmentally/clinically indicated may be served to assist with transitioning to adult services), and
- II. Individuals with any DSM-IV-TR diagnosis, except developmental disorders (tic disorders, mental retardation, pervasive developmental disorders, learning disorders, motor skills disorders and communication disorders), substance-related disorders, or conditions or problems classified in DSM-IV-TR as “other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention” (V codes)* unless these conditions co-occur with another diagnosable mental or emotional disorder, and

*The subgroup did not agree upon whether children diagnosed with the V-codes for physical abuse and sexual abuse of a child should be defined as SED.

- III. Assessment of impaired functioning at age appropriate levels and difficulty with age appropriate role performance with a Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF score between 50 and 90. Clinical discretion may be used to place individuals with GAF scores between 50 and 60 in a higher intensity (Serious Emotional Disturbance)

CHILD OR ADOLESCENT WITH SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE

- I. 0 years of age through 17 years of age (youth aged 18-21 years who are enrolled in high school, in Department of Youth Services or Children Services custody or when it is otherwise developmentally/clinically indicated may be served to assist with transitioning to adult services), and
- II. Individuals with any DSM-IV-TR diagnosis, except developmental disorders (tic disorders, mental retardation, pervasive developmental disorders, learning disorders, motor skills disorders and communication disorders), substance-related disorders, or conditions or problems classified in DSM-IV-TR as “other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention” (V codes), unless these conditions co-occur with another diagnosable mental or emotional disorder, and

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*The subgroup did not agree upon whether children diagnosed with the V-codes for physical abuse and sexual abuse of a child should be defined as SED.

- III. Assessment of impaired functioning at age appropriate levels and difficulty with age appropriate role performance with a Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF score below 60. Clinical discretion may be used to place individuals with GAF scores between 50 and 60 in a lower intensity of services (Mental/Emotional Disorder), and
- IV. Duration of the mental health disorder has persisted or is expected to be present for six months or longer.

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