



Building Skills That Will Last a Lifetime

I didn't want to listen to anybody. I was going to do what I wanted to do. My mom filed unruly charges on me. Things had gotten really bad. But with my PEP Connections care manager, it was different. She and I had a bond. I could hear her more clearly than anybody else. Nobody else could tell me anything. She helped me see that I could do things differently. She gave me the motivation to stay in school. She taught me coping skills, and now when I am having a bad day, I know what to do. People look at me and see that I've changed. I am a different person than I was before, and that is because of PEP Connections.

Sierra

The investment PEP Connections has in families and family systems is unprecedented. They come to appointments with families and they are responsive 24-7. When I need a partner, PEP Connections is my first call as I can count on their vast expertise, accessibility, and creativity.

Molly Wimbiscus, MD
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Cleveland Clinic

PEP Connections exists to support young people whose mental health issues are significantly impacting their ability to manage daily life within the school, home, and community environments. Typically, these challenges are leading to deeper system involvement and more restrictive solutions.

Working towards the goal to successfully maintain children with the community, PEP Connections utilizes a strength-based, family-focused and trauma-informed approach that helps children and their families reach the highest quality of life possible. PEP Connections strives to increase the voice of parents and other caregivers who support their children and emphasizes the supports and services provided in the neighborhood where the children and families reside.

Youth eligible for PEP Connections services will receive either:

- **Intensive Case Management/High Fidelity Wraparound**
- **Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT)**

At the point of referral and assessment, the determination is made as to which approach will best support the child and family.

PEP Connections
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www.pepcleve.org


positive education program

Who Connections Serves

PEP Connections' highly experienced, well-trained professionals coordinate services for Cuyahoga County children and youth ages 3 through 17* who:

- Have multiple problems and needs resulting from their mental health issues;
- Are involved with multiple systems or at risk of deeper system involvement; and/or
- Are at risk of out-of-home placement or are returning to their families/community from out-of-home placement.

* Services can continue for young adults up to age 22 as long as they are enrolled by age 17.

How Connections Works

PEP Connections offers two service models:

- **Intensive Case Management/High Fidelity Wraparound** is an intensive service that coordinates the efforts and services of multiple resources available to support the child and his/her family. The assigned PEP care manager provides intensive mental health support and services. The process includes regularly scheduled team meetings, which often entails contact with school personnel, other professionals, and regular home visits to meet with parents or guardians.
- **Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT)** is an intensive home-based family therapy service designed for youth who have certain diagnoses. The IHBT therapist will engage the whole family in therapy sessions, which occur twice a week for a total of 3-6 hours. This is a time-limited service, which lasts for six months.

At the time of referral, in consultation with the family, the determination will be made as to which service will best meet the child's and the family's needs.

Who Can Make a Referral

Referrals may be made for children ages 3 through 17 and come primarily from families and community partners including the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Mobile Crisis Team, Ohio Department of Youth Services, and Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Referrals may also originate from a variety of other sources including schools, hospitals, community service agencies and mental health centers.

To make a referral, please visit www.pepconnref.org or call 216-361-2441.

Associated with Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
Contract Provider of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County
Accredited by CARF: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
A United Way Agency

My care manager has improved my self-confidence. He gives me encouragement, and tells me, "You can do it, you can do it!" My behaviors have improved. I still have bad days, but I feel like a nicer person now.

Daniel

As simple as this sounds, I feel like PEP Connections has given me my sanity back. Our care manager is in the emergency room with me until 10 at night if it's needed. He helps us find appropriate situations for my son to get involved in the community. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—in school and in society—I feel like my son and my family has found the most amazing advocate in our PEP Connections case manager.

Daniel's Mom

We value our partnership with PEP Connections, as we look at children through a shared lens. They are exceptional collaborators and we have complete trust in their clinical perspective. Through a trauma-informed lens, they embrace and provide care for those kids who are deeply involved in multiple systems, supporting these young people in achieving positive life outcomes.

Jane Granzier

Associate Director of Crisis Services
FrontLine Service

PEP Connections is a critically important partner when we encounter children with mental health issues who are involved with multiple systems. They are skilled in leveraging all voices – the child, the family, the systems. They create plans and solutions that prevent these kids from getting more deeply engaged with the juvenile justice system and instead moving on a more productive path that leads to far more positive life and community outcomes.

Timothy McDevitt

Deputy Court Administrator
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court