



PEP Connections

PEP Connections exists to support young people whose mental health and multisystem needs impact their ability to thrive within school, home and community environments.

Youth served by PEP Connections are typically on track for deeper system involvement, often including residential treatment, psychiatric hospitalization, juvenile court placement and the like. Using a strength-based and trauma-informed approach, PEP Connections helps young people and their families reach the highest quality of life possible.

PEP Connections serves as a Care Management Entity (CME) for OhioRISE. As a CME, PEP provides intensive and moderate care coordination for multi-system involved youth in the region known as Catchment Q, which includes most of Cleveland and its inner-ring eastside suburbs.

PEP Connections is also a provider of Intensive Home Based Treatment (IHBT), and this service is also connected to OhioRISE.

ABOUT OhioRISE

OhioRISE is a specialized Medicaid managed care program for children and youth with complex behavioral health needs (mental health/substance use disorder) and multisystem needs. Aetna Better Health of Ohio (Aetna) is the managed care partner for the program.



OhioRISE: MODERATE CARE COORDINATION (TIER 2) and INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION (TIER 3)

OhioRISE care coordination uses a Child and Family Team (CFT) approach. Children or youth and their caregivers select members of their CFT. The CFT meets regularly to assist with care planning that focuses on the child or youth's and family's strengths, beliefs, culture, community/natural supports, and their voice and choice. If a young person meets the least intensive level of need known, s/he will receive Limited Care Coordination, which is delivered by Aetna.

OhioRISE 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 three to six hours. This is a time-limited service, which lasts for three to six months. IHBT helps stabilize the household by helping create a safe environment for the entire family. Therapy focuses heavily on helping youth develop skills to manage troubling behaviors that have resulted from severe mental health challenges.

CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY

PEP Connections' services are designed to support children and youth ages 0-20 with these characteristics:

- Have multiple needs that result from behavioral health challenges,
- Have multisystem needs or are at risk for deeper system involvement, and/or
- Are at risk of out-of-home placement or are returning to their families from out-of-home placement.

All youth served by **PEP Connections** must meet **OhioRISE** criteria and their Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) must indicate a level of need that makes them eligible for the desired service.

To learn more and to access either service, contact **PEP Connections** at 216-361-2441.

"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."

— **Dr. Molly Wimbiscus**, child and adolescent psychiatrist, Cleveland Clinic

"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