

Attendance Counseling Team 360° (ACT 360)

ACT 360 will allow all the school districts of Blair County to access help for students who struggle with attendance. ACT 360 is an all inclusive intensive prevention/intervention counseling program that helps Blair county school aged youth and their families set and meet their goals for success. This model is unique to targeting attendance issues from a 360 degree approach. The Attendance Counseling Team will be available from routine scheduled family/youth appointments, court hearings, school meetings, transportation up to crisis intervention. ACT 360 is based on goal achievement (3 to 4 months) and not a time limited program. The program will focus on whatever treatment modality best matches to the family/youth as identified by the family/youth and counselors. As part of the program, family and individual meetings will be facilitated by counselors who are trained in Motivational Interviewing as well as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The referred families and youth will not need to be open with CYF or JPO to receive services. Although the team will be made up of three counselors, two counselors will be assigned to work with any one family. One counselor will work primarily with the parents while the other works with the youth. Individual, Group, and Family meetings are all utilized to help the family meet their goals. Individual counselors will follow that family/youth as they attend court hearings, school meetings, NCTI CBT Attendance Groups, etc. to ensure successful engagement and motivation. ACT 360 describes an all encompassing approach of strength based systematic care to help students and their families reach their goals for success. The roots of ACT 360 consist of a counseling team formerly identified as the Truancy Court Counselors. Over the years, Truancy Court's referral limitations to an Altoona Jr High 7th grade population saw the need to better serve a broader population in Blair County. ACT 360 will be able to work with a larger referral base, covering every school district in Blair County. The family/youth's core supports are identified ensuring optimum success in achieving his/her educational goals. The Attendance Counseling Team works in collaboration with the family to identify and reduce risk factors that have led to truancy issues in the family's past. Evolution Counseling Service's ACT 360 Counselors will work individually with the student and family to offer effective strength based counseling services. The benefits of which can be far reaching for years to come. Identifying Blair County families/youth at any point and time of the year can help support the youth and family for positive change and to eliminate road blocks such as school policies that prevent youth from passing to the next grade. ACT 360 counselors are strengths focused in their approach to helping families. The counselors will help advocate, engage, motivate and applaud the smallest of steps in the right direction. The key is to offer counseling that matches to that student and family for additional supports outside of and inside the school systems. This may include crisis

intervention, tutoring, transportation, individual counseling, peer groups, family activities, and family counseling. Participation from the parent/guardian/student is key to completing each phase of the program and ensuring positive growth. Evolution Counseling's Attendance Counseling Team will work with the parents and the student to achieve goals related to their success in school. Meeting on a weekly basis is a required part of participating in the program. This is an important component to reaching not only the long term goals of the family but to also target important issues immediately like attendance, tardiness, classroom behavior, and grades. ACT 360 will start immediately upon the family agreeing to participate in the program. This will include individual sessions scheduled with parents/guardians and family meetings. ACT 360 will utilize the NCTI CBT Attendance Group strength based treatment curriculum as an intervention program for identified youth with truancy issues and their families. ACT 360 can be utilized as a frontline prevention service as well as an intensive intervention service.

Key Components:

- Available to ALL Blair County School Districts and Courts
- Emergency availability
- Early morning interventions
- Transportation
- Strength Based Outcome Driven Individual, Family, and Group Counseling
- Collaboration with Courts, Schools, CYF, JPO and Community Resources
- After School Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Incentives/Stipends
- Evidence Based Motivational Interviewing
- Evidence Based NCTI CBT Groups
- Outcome Driven Services

Target Population: Identified school age youth and their families that have attendance related issues.

Referral Sources: Juvenile Probation, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, MDJ, Mental Health, Schools, Family, or Community.