

Attendance Counseling Team 360 (ACT 360)

Evolution's Attendance Counseling Team 360 (ACT 360) is excited to be expanding into Huntingdon, PA. ACT 360 is a proven intervention/prevention program already fully operating in the neighboring Blair County by Evolution. ACT 360 will be available to the youth/families of Huntingdon Area School District immediately. Collaboration has been extensive with Huntingdon Area School District, Huntingdon County Children's Services, JPO, Law Enforcement and Intermediate Unit 11 who have all identified the need for this program. ACT 360 allows students within the Huntingdon Area School District to access help for students who struggle with attendance. This program is an all-inclusive, intensive prevention/intervention counseling program that helps school aged children, and their families, set and meet goals for their success. This model is unique to targeting attendance issues from a 360 degree approach. Our Attendance Counseling Team is available for routinely 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.

The funding for this program is payed for by Pennsylvania tax payer dollars.

The short-term goals of this project will have a direct impact on the community, schools and families involved. Attendance Counseling Team 360 will be able to reduce/eliminate violence in the school, home, and community. ACT 360 will allow Huntingdon Area School District to access immediate help for this at-risk population who struggle to succeed. These youth may be referred to as students which implies school impacts but they are also key members of their family system as well as community members. Think about this most vulnerable population when left unidentified or untreated. This population of students is at a much higher risk of mental health disorders, drug and alcohol use/abuse, violence, bullying or being bullied, suicide, delinquency, drop out, family conflict, sexual abuse and out of home placement. ACT 360 is an all-inclusive intensive prevention/intervention counseling program that with this grant funding would be able to open with at-risk students within 24 hours of receiving a referral. Within the first three days a treatment team meeting would be scheduled as well as assessments completed to ensure the student's immediate treatment needs are being met. School safety along with the student's safety will be determined and a treatment plan would be developed with direct input from the student/family and school. The expectation would be that Huntingdon Area School District school aged youth and their families would have immediate access to set and meet their goals for success. This model is unique to targeting attendance, academics, and school behavioral issues from a 360 degree approach. Since the counseling is treating the person not the symptom of truancy we are creating a catalyst for change that has an impact on all aspects of that youth's life. Since ACT 360 also provides family and adult

counseling, we are helping that entire family system meet their goals for success. ACT 360 will be available from routine scheduled in home family/youth counseling appointments, court hearings, school meetings, mentoring, transportation to crisis intervention. ACT 360 is based on goal achievement (3 to 4 month average) and not a time limited program. The short-term goals ensure the safety of the community as well as strengthening its members by early identification of the problem, intervention, immediate access to treatment, communication with key stakeholders, and working towards success as a person and family. The long-term goals include significant treatment success across all domains. This would include long-term positive change in a reduction of delinquency, family conflict, out of home placements, and violence. When youth/families mental health and behavioral health needs are being successfully treated the person, family, school, and community will reap the benefits. The at-risk student's path is changed from poor school performance, dropout, crime, violence, incarceration to intervention, treatment, graduation, employment, and becoming a productive, tax paying community citizen.