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JEFFERSON COUNTY CENTER
1102 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 127
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EMERGENCY SERVICES
Business hours: (913) 682-5118
After hours: (888) 260-9634
Compassionate Ear Warm Line:
5-10pm, 7 nights per week
(913) 281-2251 or
toll free (866) 927-6327

THE GUIDANCE CENTER
Promoting healthy communities
WWW.THEGUIDANCE-CTR.ORG

SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN &
FAMILIES

OUR MISSION
The Guidance Center promotes healthy communities by providing integrated behavioral health care services and partnering in the delivery of general healthcare to those we serve.

OUR VISION
We envision a healthy community of people who can access and benefit from state of the art integrated health care which results in an enhanced quality of life for all.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES
We will provide accountable and value-based prevention, early intervention, recovery, and wellness-oriented behavioral health care services and supports. Our services will be readily accessible and outcome driven.

We will provide our services in the least restrictive environment possible without compromising quality care.

We practice integrated health care. Community partnerships are central to positive client outcomes.

We are a customer-first organization where quality of services, integrity and ethics are never compromised.

Our priority is to serve the residents of Atchison, Jefferson, and Leavenworth counties.

We will not deny services due to genuine inability to pay.

Core services defined by licensing standards will be accessible to every resident of the three county areas. The involvement of clients and their families is essential to providing responsive, accessible, and culturally competent services.

As a learning organization, we continuously assess and improve our processes and performance.

We are committed to providing a mutually supportive work environment that encourages engagement, growth, and performance excellence.

We will be in legal and regulatory compliance and fiscally responsible.
Children may have difficulty succeeding in school or at home for many reasons. Depression, anxiety, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), or other conditions can affect a child’s success. Children and families may benefit from professional guidance as they learn to understand the feelings they are experiencing, and make positive choices so that they can feel they are once again in charge of their lives. Since our beginning over 60 years ago as the Atchison Child Guidance Center, we have offered care for children with varying difficulties.

The Guidance Center’s services for children and families include therapy and psychiatry services, substance abuse recovery services, psychological testing and evaluations, and specialized services designed to meet the needs of youth suffering from serious emotional and mental difficulties.

ROLE OF PARENTS & CAREGIVERS
Because a child’s parents and family are the most important part of his or her life and have the best opportunity to influence changes, family sessions are always included in the child’s treatment plan. Changes in behavior and emotional well-being can only occur when the active involvement of parents is present. Parents are continuously kept informed of their child’s progress, and are encouraged to support their child through the treatment process. In addition, the consent of the child’s parents or guardian is required for services provided at the office or in school, and in order to share information about the child with his or her school, teachers, or other care givers.

All initial visits occur at the office so that parents can complete necessary paperwork, answer questions about the child, and make fee arrangements. Therapists meet with both the parent and the child, and suggest an individualized treatment plan.

PSYCHIATRY SERVICES
Many mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or attention deficit disorder can have physical origins. Proper medication can help alleviate symptoms and, in some cases, is essential for improvement. The Guidance Center’s psychiatry services include psychiatric assessments, medication prescription, and medication management. Individuals should schedule an appointment for an initial visit with an outpatient therapist. The therapist can then arrange a referral to an appropriate psychiatrist.

OUTPATIENT THERAPY
A variety of problems are addressed in outpatient therapy, including depression, anxiety, trauma, parent-child problems, attention-deficit disorder, and anger management difficulties. Treatment is solution-focused and may be brief or extended, based on your child’s needs. Additionally, the Guidance Center is licensed by the State of Kansas to provide outpatient addiction services, including alcohol & drug evaluation, treatment, education, & relapse prevention for adolescents.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR YOUTH
Community Based Services (CBS) are delivered to children and adolescents who have experienced significant emotional problems which affect their functioning in the home, at school, or in the community and which might place youth at risk for out-of-home placement. Youth receive intensive mental health support services to maintain successful community living, focusing on developing their strengths and support systems in goal-focused work.

Case managers assist each youth and his or her family members in improving self-management of symptoms and achieving success in school, home, work, and other social contexts. Additionally, case managers assist families in obtaining access to needed medical, social, education and other services, typically meeting in the youth’s home or in a community setting. Intensive Case Management is also available as a short-term service for children and families experiencing increased crisis and risk of out-of-home placement.

Youth Psychosocial Programs include structured, goal-directed group interventions and activities based on the participants’ needs, are designed to focus on the skills necessary at different life stages, and are intended to assist youth in daily problem solving, social skills, personal relationships, health and well-being, and positive leisure time. Transportation to and from activity sites is provided.

The Early Childhood Program serves preschool children ages 2 through 7 who may be at risk for developing a serious emotional disturbance (SED). A therapist facilitates mental health assessments scheduled at varying times and locations each month, available at no cost to families. Funding has been made possible by the Family Centered System of Care grant. The Guidance Center also has a collaborative arrangement with NEK-CAP Head Start to provide specialized mental health services to this early childhood population in all three counties.

Finally, the Parent Support Program serves youth and families who are approved for the HCBS Waiver as they become acquainted with the service system. This individual serves as a mentor, advocate and educator in order to assist families in meeting their child’s goals as outlined in their plan of care.

For more information about CBS, parents or legal guardians should contact the J. David Kaaz Memorial Campus.

OUR SERVICE PROVIDERS
The Guidance Center’s services are delivered by a team of mental health professionals crucial to the success of the treatment program. Staff are compassionate and understand the physical and emotional factors that contribute to sound mental health. Skilled professionals on our staff include adult and child psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, clinical social workers, psychologists, certified alcohol/drug counselors, adult & youth case managers, mediators, attendants and parent/caregiver support workers.

ACCESSING SERVICES
Services are available for all residents of Atchison, Jefferson, and Leavenworth Counties.

Specialized services for children are available for those youth meeting the criteria for serious emotional disturbance (SED) as defined by the State of Kansas. Specialized services for adults are available for those adults meeting the criteria for severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) as defined by the State of Kansas. Appointments can be made over the telephone or by coming in to one of our locations, which ever is more convenient.

FEES FOR SERVICES
Many health insurance plans include coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. The type and extent of mental health coverage may vary greatly. Our staff will be happy to assist you with contacting your insurance provider to determine if the Center is a provider on your plan.

For those individuals who do not have insurance, fees are adjusted based upon family income and family size, with funding made possible by state and local sources. The Guidance Center will not deny necessary and appropriate services to anyone based solely on the consumer’s inability to pay for those services. Fees charged by the Center may be adjusted or reduced in compliance with K.A.R. 30-60-64. Ask to speak with a Clinic Administrator if your fee presents a hardship for you.