

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Medical Care Advisory Committee  
Item for Committee Advisement**

**PREPARED BY:** Lara Sheehi

**PRESENTED BY:** Lara Sheehi/Ann-Marie Dwyer

**DATE:** 9/10/14

**SUBJECT:** Intensive Family Services SPA

**OBJECTIVE:** To improve behavioral health outcomes for beneficiaries 0-21 who are at-risk of being placed outside the home due to behavioral health concerns.

**BACKGROUND:** Out-of-home placement for beneficiaries 0-21 currently includes placement in acute psychiatric facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs), foster-care, etc. While these placements may de-escalate crises, they are costly and evidence suggests these placements do not support long-term treatment outcomes, as a beneficiary's home environment (including family, school, community) remains unchanged and their natural resources remain untapped.

The emphasis of Intensive Family Services (IFS), therefore, is on changing the social ecology for participants and their families to promote more positive treatment outcomes and optimize healing and growth outside of traditional treatment placement. IFS targets the family unit as a whole and includes services that, for example, address caregiver discipline practices, improve family relationships, improve school or vocational performances, engage participants in recreational activities, and develop a support network in the community where the participant and their family live. These services are provided both within the beneficiary's home and in their community setting.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** The fiscal impact is estimated to be approximately \$572,495 (total dollars) for the FY2015.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** The provision of this service aims to develop a support network in the community where the participant and their family live with the overall goal to empower families to build a positive environment and network through the mobilization of natural resources available within the community. Ultimately, this service will decrease utilization of out-of-home placement for beneficiaries 0-21 with behavioral health concerns.

**EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED:** Eligible beneficiaries and their families, public and private service providers, out-of-home placement providers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To submit a State Plan Amendment to add as a service available to all beneficiaries age 0-21.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Jan. 1, 2015