



rosecrance  
life's waiting®



## SASS

### Screening, Assessment and Support Services

Who is eligible? Children in psychiatric crisis who:

- Are younger than 21 and for whom the Department of Children and Family Services is responsible
- Are younger than 18 and do not have medical coverage
- Are younger than 18 and enrolled in Medicaid or Kidscare

#### What is a psychiatric crisis?

The child is at immediate risk of serious harm to self:

- Is the child having thoughts of suicide?
- Could the child unintentionally harm himself or herself?

The child is at immediate risk of serious harm to someone else:

- Is the child making statements about harming others?
- Is the child aggressive and causing serious harm to others?

The child is experiencing signs of psychosis:

- Is the child seeing or hearing things that others cannot?
- Is the child exhibiting bizarre behaviors or thought processes?

(more)

## How do you access SASS?

- Call the **CARES REFERRAL** line at **800.345.9049**. Information will be collected about the child, the child's guardian(s) and the child's current emotional state.
- Call the police if the child is a serious threat to himself/herself or others, and have them transport the child to the hospital. The hospital will then call the CARES line.
- Have parent(s) or guardian(s) bring the child to the hospital.

## What happens after the CARES call?

- Rosecrance SASS is contacted and will contact the referral source within 30 minutes.
- A SASS worker will come to the site of the crisis within 90 minutes.
- The SASS worker will interview the child and any persons involved and will contact the family.
- The SASS worker will call a supervisor to discuss options for the client, and a decision will be made either to hospitalize the child or to create a safety plan and send the child to a safe place.
- If the child is in need of hospitalization, the SASS worker will get consent from the family, make calls to hospitals to find an accepting and suitable placement, and arrange transportation.
- If the child is not in need of hospitalization, the SASS worker will work with the family and others involved to create a safety plan for the child.

## What happens after the child is hospitalized or sent home with a safety plan?

- SASS will follow up with the child within 48 hours of the assessment. (If the assessment falls on a Friday, the client will be contacted on Monday.)
- The child will be in the SASS program for 90 days. Services include crisis stabilization, support and counseling. Those services may be provided at school, at home or in the community.

## What happens after the 90 days of SASS?

- The child will be transferred to less-intensive services.
- Once a child is involved in SASS, the CARES line does not need to be called during that period for crisis situations. Instead, the child's primary caseworker should be contacted.

### Contact Information:

CARES Line: 800.345.9049

Rosecrance McHenry County: 815.363.6132

Melissa Hamilton, Mental Health Coordinator

Jennifer Marano, SASS Team Lead