



Protocol for Teams of A Teen Parent/Parent-to-Be

Wraparound Milwaukee is committed to the safety of all children and their families which means working with the whole family, not just the identified youth to assure safety for them as well as their communities. To that end, the following protocol has been established for teens who have become pregnant are or are about to become parents.

When you as a care coordinator or provider become aware of this information, the first step is to contact your supervisor. Your supervisor should then contact one of our Wraparound Community Nurses, Maryan Torres at 257-7624 or Margaret Pena at 257-7573 who will assist you in addressing the following areas of need:

1. Safety/Legal

- Inform parties of the need to report sexual activity by a Wraparound youth, male or female that results in a pregnancy to 220-SAFE. Report the pregnancy to 220-SAFE and the BMCW worker or Probation Officer as appropriate. Document notifications in the progress note section of the identified youth's file. **If a youth who is pregnant runs away you must notify Wraparound Administration and the Bureau of Child Welfare as soon as you become aware of the situation. If the youth is on a delinquency order you must also contact the probation officer.**

2. Medical Care (*to be accomplished within 30 days of awareness of pregnancy*)

- Facilitate and monitor medical care and medical insurance for parent and infant, prenatal and following the birth of the child (*this includes well-baby care*). **All teenage pregnancies are considered medically "high risk" and should receive medical attention and planning, as is available through St Joseph's Hospital.**
- Ensure that monthly (*or as ordered by treating physician*) doctor appointments are occurring.
- Any **concerns regarding self-care/neglect concerns or other risky behavior, including substance use/abuse by a pregnant teen should be reported immediately to 220-SAFE**, as well as to the assigned Wraparound Community Nurse, Steve Gilbertson if the youth is on the high-risk list, and to all of the child and family team members. **A team meeting should be called within 48 hours to address the concerns and adjust the crisis plan as needed.**
- If the pregnant teen is prescribed psychotropic or other medication potentially harmful to the fetus, immediately notify prescribing physician of the pregnancy and arrange appointments as appropriate.
- Set up a regular schedule of communication with the Wraparound Community Nurse **throughout the pregnancy**. Once the teen mother gives birth the Community Nurse will do a home visit to check on the mom and baby within one week of the birth of the baby.
- Engage appropriate community resources such as *Empowering Families of Milwaukee* through the City Health Department (414-286-8620), Rosalie Manor, Next Door Foundation, Public Health Nurse, the Visiting Nurses Association and/or home care from the treating physician's office.
- Assist the young person in accessing the WIC program.

- Remember to include the father of the baby when possible in all of the above process as well.

3. Parent Education.

- Engage teen parent(s), mother and father, in parenting education and training, such as first time parents' classes.
- Utilize the resources and programs offered through Owen's Place, our young adult resource center.
- Engage teen parent(s) in parenting support groups and home visiting services, such as through Rosalie Manor or Empowering Families of Milwaukee through the City Health Department (414-286-8620).
- Engage the parents of the teen parents in parenting support groups for parents in their situation.
- For teen fathers a referral to "My Father's Place" should be made.
- Community Nurse to provide education and "Positive Parenting" packets.
- Community Nurse to provide education on Shaken Baby and Safe Sleep.

4. Educational/Vocational Planning.

- Enlist the assistance of Wraparound Milwaukee school liaison, as needed.
- Prepare realistic vocational planning for the teen parent to enable support of the baby.
- Engage teen parent in educational programming around safe sex and appropriate birth control.

5. Care Planning.

- Begin by indicating in the relevant medical information section of the plan of care in synthesis the field relevant to the current situation, pregnant teen or new parent. Fill in the text box with all pertinent information.
- The Plan of Care and Crisis-Safety Plan should clearly reflect all needs and best practice strategies related to the teen-age pregnancy and birth.
- All weekly contacts must include the baby and teen parent(s) and the welfare of the infant and parent(s) should be clearly prioritized in all documentation. Careful and ongoing assessment of any risky situations involving the newborn child will be required taking into consideration the mental health and behavioral status of all who might be designated as responsible for childcare.
- Home visitation services, such as through Empowering Families is considered the best practice in preventing early child maltreatment.
- Set up the baby's room and acquire needed supplies (*crib, clothes, diapers, bottles, etc.*)
- Plan/prepare for the delivery - detailed plan to get to and from the hospital.
- Arrange for Day Care, including transportation to and from.
- Identify a respite resource and a stress relief/crisis resource.
- Plan must include details of adult supervision of teen parent (mother or father) during visits or episodes of caring with/for the baby based on needs of that teen parent.

ALL ACTIVITY REGARDING CARE OF TEEN PARENT AND CHILD MUST BE THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTED.