



Cunningham's **Families Stronger Together (FST)** provides voluntary trauma-informed, culturally responsive, therapeutic services for the entire family—caregivers and their youth—who have entered, or are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

Intended to promote resiliency in the family, FST's therapeutic services are provided according to the Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) treatment framework and include:

- Individual therapy services for the youth;
- Family therapy services for the youth and their family;
- Psychoeducation services for the youth;
- Psychoeducation services for the caregivers;
- Care coordination services for the youth;
- Intensive family engagement services; and
- Coordination with similar or related service providers for aftercare services.

FST will help youth and their families understand the impact past experiences of trauma have had on their current level of functioning and/or behaviors that have brought them to the attention of the juvenile justice system. The program will also strengthen the trauma-informed caregiving skills of caregivers.

SCOPE OF SERVICE

The needs of each family will be triaged upon referral and the youth may be found to be eligible for:

Full Service Case (4-10 months, Treatment Plan Clients)

- Offered to families who, upon referral, have made a clear commitment to engaging in services
- Includes an assessment and either a treatment planning process or intervention planning process

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individuals who:

1. Reside in Champaign County
2. Aged 10 through 17
3. Have become involved, or are at risk of becoming involved, in the juvenile justice system
4. May be experiencing:
 - Emotional/Behavioral concerns
 - Truancy
 - Domestic Violence
 - Probation
 - Pattern of chronic offenses
 - Felony charge

The needs of each youth and their family referred to FST will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if needs can best be met by this program. Cunningham's program supervisor and Intake and Admissions Specialist will determine eligibility for each referred youth and their family.

PRIMARY FUNDER: Champaign County Mental Health Board

CONTACT FOR REFERRAL

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All referrals will be evaluated individually and the admission decision will be made after taking into consideration the unique needs of the family. Some families may be referred to other services.

What happens when a referral is accepted?

A strengths-based, child-centered meeting must occur within five days of acceptance in order for us to be able to evaluate the case and make a final determination as to the appropriateness of IPS services.

In order for Cunningham Children's Home to provide the best possible services, it is important that the client, foster parent(s) and referring agency caseworker attend this meeting.

All pertinent written information must be made available to Cunningham Children's Home at or before this meeting, including information forms, comprehensive family service plans, school grades and behavioral reports, and social history/integrated assessments.

Additional meetings will occur over the first 30 days in order for all members to participate in the development of the client's strengths-based Mental Health Assessment (MHA) and Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) that is based on the results of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool and includes treatment goals and the methods used to achieve these goals.

It is vital that the client, foster parent and referring agency caseworker work closely with Cunningham Children's Home so that everyone's knowledge and experience is taken into consideration when this document is generated. Cunningham Children's Home will develop a written review of this document, including progress made and changes in treatment goals and methods every 90 days.

Cunningham Children's Home provides IPS services to LANs 24 and 25. If you are not sure which LAN your foster home is located in, or if you feel you may need IPS services for a child that resides in a different LAN, please call the CARES line at 1.800.345.9049.



With a long history of working with youth in welfare programs, staff and management at Cunningham Children's Home are able to develop effective therapeutic interventions and care coordination services, particularly for youth with high-end mental health needs.

Throughout its history, Cunningham has a consistent track record for:

- *Ensuring that a high-level, integrated, and individualized plan is implemented.*
- *Using a trauma-informed and culturally responsive lens to service coordination.*
- *Developing partnerships with an array of community resources within Champaign, Ford, Vermilion and Iroquois counties.*
- *Monitoring services to ensure they achieve their objectives in an effective and timely manner.*
- *Actively facilitating strong communication between multiple agencies and professionals across the physical health, behavioral health, functional and psychosocial needs as well as basic life needs.*
- *Conducting interdisciplinary team meetings that support youth voice and family choice.*
- *Creating and supporting strong transitions from higher levels of care to more community-based care in ways that promote a sense of stability for the youth while working through feelings of fear, loss, and anxiety; and helping their family adjust to bringing the youth into the family setting.*