



Polk County unveils new mental health services for children

By Cynthia Fodor

Updated: 5:25 PM CDT Jun 28, 2021

POLK COUNTY, Iowa — Polk County families will soon have more mental health resources for children.

The county's new Comprehensive Children's Crisis Services will offer families two options to help stabilize a child in need.

One option keeps a child in the safety of their own house to receive therapy for up to five days.

A second option provides five days of services at Easterseals Camp Sunnyside for more serious cases.

Both options are alternatives to treatment in a hospital psychiatric unit or emergency room.

According to the county, children will be assessed by the county's mobile crisis team or urgent care clinics to determine what option fits best.

A new law signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds requires all counties in Iowa to develop crisis plans for children by July 1.

To access the services, call 211 or Your Life Iowa at 855-581-8111. Iowans are urged to call 911 in serious situations where someone's life is at risk.