

allowances, and activities. Medical expenses are paid for through either the Medical Assistance (Health Choices) program or the birth parent's health insurance.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT CONCERN

### How does CONCERN provide support to the Host Home parents?

CONCERN provides extensive support services to host home parents. These services include, but are not limited to:

- A case manager for each child to coordinate and facilitate all treatment services
- A clinical therapist to provide in-home individual and family therapy, as well as provide supervision to the host home parents
- On-going training in the areas of mental health, behavioral interventions, and medication management
- Educational support services for dealing with school districts, and
- 24 hour/day, 7 day/week on-call services

Why are CONCERN Host Home Parents required to have 24 hours of training per year, especially if they have parenting experience?

Parenting someone else's child is very different from parenting your own children. Prior parenting experience is helpful, but is not necessary to become a host home parent. Much of the focus of the training is to understand the special needs of the CRR clients and to learn methods of treating those needs in a professional, therapeutic manner.

Opportunities for training exist in large groups, small groups, and individual self-guided instruction. Through the on-going training program at CONCERN, host home parents are provided with a variety of opportunities to develop expertise in treating troubled children within the host home family setting.

*Through teamwork, cultural awareness and quality personalized services, CONCERN promotes respect, self-worth and trust in individuals and fosters the growth of healthy, responsible community members.*

Founded in 1978, CONCERN is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit community based child welfare organization dedicated to meeting the needs of abused, neglected, and delinquent children and youth. CONCERN has since served more than 13,000 children and youth, including placing approximately 1,500 into adoptive families.

Through 14 service sites throughout eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland, CONCERN offers a comprehensive array of foster care, residential, and counseling programs. Each day, our foster care and residential programs impact the lives of nearly 500 children and youth. Each year, our counseling services touch the lives of more than 2,500 individuals through community-based, outpatient, and employee assistance programs.

### For more information:

#### GREATER BERKS OFFICE

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(610) 944-0445

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[www.concern4kids.org](http://www.concern4kids.org)

The provision of services, and referrals of clients shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age or sex.

# Answers to Questions about Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) Services



 **CONCERN**  
Hope. Opportunity. Change.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT CRR CLIENTS

### Who are the CRR clients?

Clients in the Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) program demonstrate behaviors that significantly impair their functioning within the family, among their peers, and in other environments, such as school and the community. These children and youth are unable to reside with their families due to this level of disturbance. The CONCERN CRR program will place emphasis on placement for adolescents, ages 14 through 18, who have histories that would necessitate this level of care and are from a variety of ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

### Where do the CRR clients come from who are placed with CONCERN?

This program will accept children who are in the custody of their parents, as well as children who are in the legal custody of the county Children and Youth Services Office or the county Juvenile Probation Office. CONCERN tries to place children within a reasonable distance of their biological families so that family visits can occur without traveling great distances.

### How long do the children stay?

Clients in the CRR program are anticipated to be involved with the program for 12-18 months. The goal of each placement should be to permanently place the child back with his or her biological family or guardian.

In the CRR program, an individualized treatment plan will be developed for each client. Each member of the treatment team, including the client, is encouraged to participate in the development of the treatment plan. The treatment plan will identify short- and long-term goals, objectives for completing each goal, identification of who is responsible for achieving the objective, as well as time frames for completion. The length of time a client will remain in the CRR program depends upon a number of factors,

including the needs of the child, as well as the needs of the family.

Each treatment plan is reviewed on a monthly basis and participation from the biological family, school and appropriate community service agencies is highly encouraged.

### Who decides when the children may return home?

If the CRR client is in the custody of the county Children and Youth Services Office or Juvenile Probation Office, the child is Court-ordered into the care of their county, which then places the child with CONCERN. After carefully reviewing the child's and family's progress, as well as recommendations of the county placing agency and CONCERN, a Judge makes the decision to return the child to his or her biological family or guardian.

If the CRR client is not in the custody of the county Children and Youth Services Office or Juvenile Probation Office, returning home will be dependent upon the client's progress in placement, as well as the family's progress in the treatment of the child and their readiness for the child's return.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING A CRR HOST HOME PARENT

### What is expected of a Host Home Parent?

As member of the CRR client's treatment team, host home parents provide a stable, caring, structured, and therapeutic home environment while working closely with the CONCERN staff members in following agency policies. An understanding and acceptance of the child's biological family by the host home parents is very important and is a key to helping the "whole child" while he or she is in placement with CONCERN.

### How long does it take to become a CRR Host Home Parent?

At CONCERN, the host home approval process involves at least two interviews in your home,

completing an application and a host home parent profile, obtaining ACT 33 (criminal and child abuse) and FBI clearances, and 24 hours of pre-service training. Most prospective host home parents are able to accomplish this process in 16 weeks.

### How many CRR clients are placed with Host Home Parents?

Children and youth who are referred to the CRR program are matched with families through careful consideration of the child's needs and preferences, as well as the ability and experience of the host home family to meet these needs. The host home families will have only one or, at most, two CRR clients at a given time.

### Do Host Home Parents have to be married?

Although host home parents are typically married couples, single-parent families could be considered for this program. It should be noted that single-parent families would not be able to work except the hours that the child would be in school and could only have one CRR client in the home at a time.

### Must Host Home Parents own their home?

CONCERN has no restrictions regarding whether a host home is owned or rented. However, the agency does recommend that host home parents who rent check with their landlord regarding restrictions in their lease and local occupancy ordinances.

### Do Host Home Parents earn money through payments?

Yes! For some, host home parenting is considered a way of working from home. The daily rate paid by the agency to the host home parents is not only for the expense of providing room and board to the CRR client, but is also a difficulty of care payment.

### Who pays for the child's clothing and medical expenses?

Host home parents are provided a per diem, a portion of which is to be used for the child's clothing,