

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Rivers Launches Youth ACT Intensive Mental Health Program for Youth

ALBANY, NY — Northern Rivers Family of Services has launched their new Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program, designed to provide intensive, community-based services to youth aged 10-21 in Albany and Schenectady who struggle with serious mental illness. Jacqueline Schiehsl, LMSW, has been named Team Leader.

Northern Rivers, which has operated an adult ACT team serving Warren and Washington Counties since 2019, was selected by the NYS Office of Mental Health to implement the Youth ACT model for up to 36 youth in Albany and Schenectady Counties. The multidisciplinary Youth ACT team provides services and skilled therapeutic interventions through a home and community-based team approach to youth referred by their county who are at risk of or are returning home from inpatient or residential settings.

The team, which includes a team leader, licensed mental health clinicians, a nurse practitioner, a peer advocate, and support staff, provides services including medication evaluation and management, psychiatric assessment, clinical counseling and therapy, family counseling and advocacy, school and employment support, and 24/7/365 on-call telephone assistance.

“We are proud to be able to offer these vital services to youth and families in Albany and Schenectady Counties. Youth ACT will help clients overcome challenges in school and work, in at home, in social situations, and with physical health and wellness, said William T. Gettman, Jr., Northern Rivers CEO.

Northern Rivers has been awarded a contract to operate an additional Youth ACT team to serve Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties, and hopes to launch in early 2023.

Schiehsl joined the organization in 2014 as a service provider, and most recently served as a care manager supervisor. She previously worked as a residential operations specialist for

Schenectady Community Action Program. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY New Paltz and her Master of Social Work from the University at Albany.

The team includes Kayla Bain, mental health aide; Yasmeen Baxter, family peer advocate; Joyalina David, clinician; Tresha Lall, program assistant, and Wenonah Mclauchlin, clinician. They will operate out of the organization's 1 Genium Plaza office.

About Northern Rivers Family of Services

Northern Rivers is a family of human services agencies that work together and are committed to helping children, adults, and families. Formed in 2012, Northern Rivers is the parent organization to Northeast Parent & Child Society (founded in 1888 in Schenectady), Parsons Child & Family Center (founded in 1829 in Albany), and Unlimited Potential (founded in Saratoga Springs in 1979). Together we serve more than 18,000 children, adults, and families in more than 40 counties in New York state who struggle with abuse, neglect, trauma, mental health challenges, educational difficulties, career training and employment, and service navigation through an innovative continuum of home-, clinic-, school-, and community-based services, vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, and senior-supporting programs that provide person-centered, trauma-informed innovative solutions to ensure clients live their best lives. With a 1,400-strong workforce and informed by our nearly 200-year heritage, our quality of care, depth of programs, combined size, and passion for the mission make us a leading human services provider.

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