

TYPES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS:

Similar to pediatric providers, behavioral health providers vary in the type of schooling they have completed and the degrees they hold which allow them to practice. Below is a list of common degrees and/or credentials you may find from behavioral health providers in your community.

Behavioral Health Providers:

- MSW – Master’s in Social Work
 - Completed a master’s degree from an accredited institution
- LCSW – Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - Has completed a master’s degree in social work has received required supervision, and passed the board required exam to hold a license from DORA.
- MFT – Marriage and Family Therapist
 - Completed a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy
- LMFT – Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
 - Has completed a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy, has received required supervision, and passed the board required exam to hold a license from DORA.
- PhD – Doctor of Philosophy
 - Has completed a doctoral degree in some discipline
 - You’ll want to see what the PhD is in (i.e., psychology, social work, nursing, etc.). If the degree is not within a clinical field (i.e., music) you’ll want to ask for additional proof they are qualified to provide therapeutic services.
- PsyD – Doctor of Psychology
 - Has completed a doctoral degree in psychology
 - Will want to verify licensure with DORA as credentials do not change with licensure
- M.S or M.A. – Master of Science or Master of Arts

- Completed a master's degree in a discipline such as psychology, counseling psychology, marriage and family therapy, etc.
- LPC – Licensed Professional Counselor
 - Has completed a master's degree in a counseling program other than social work, has received required supervision, and passed the board required exam to hold a license from DORA.

Substance Abuse Counselors

- CAC I – Certified Addictions Counselor I
 - A High School Diploma with 21 hours of coursework in addiction, 1000 hours of relevant work experience, and passing of state exam is required for this certification.
- CAC II – Certified Addictions Counselor II
 - All that is required for CAC I, 14 hours of additional coursework, and 2000 hours of relevant work experience.
- CAC III – Certified Addictions Counselor III
 - Must have a bachelor's degree in behavioral health field, 2000 hours of relevant work experience, and passing of state exam.

TYPES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES:

The following may be types of agencies within your community that can either provide behavioral health services to the children and families experiencing maltreatment or help you create referral processes for your practice. Research your community to familiarize yourself with these agencies.

- Community Mental Health – typically an agency that address community behavioral health needs. Typically employs therapists, nurses and nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, substance abuse counselors (CAC I, II, III), and case managers.
- Child Advocacy Centers – agencies used to interview children who have been victims or witnesses to violent crime, most often sexual abuse. These agencies look different in every community but often have connections to specialized behavioral health providers within the community or offer the services in house.

- Safe Houses – agencies that offer services to victims/survivors of intimate partner violence. These organizations also look different in every community, but also usually have an idea of who is providing what types of behavioral health services across the city/town/county you are located in.
- School-Based Health Centers – primary care clinics located on school grounds offering physical, dental, and mental health services to non-insured or under-insured children.
- District Attorney’s Office, Victim Witness Unit – some children/families are eligible for funding to pay for behavioral health services when what they’ve experienced generates a police report. This is called Victim’s Compensation. Employees of the District Attorney’s Victim Witness Unit typically have a collection of therapists they recommend within the community who offer trauma intensive services.