

# Diagnostic Assessment and Referral Team

## WHAT IS DART?

Wheeler's Diagnostic Assessment and Referral Team (DART) program provides customized, multidisciplinary evaluations for clients experiencing complex psychiatric, behavioral, cognitive, social, emotional, and/or educational difficulties.

## OUR GOAL

The DART program provides answers to specific questions regarding diagnostic, treatment, educational programming, and placement issues and makes recommendations to help clients succeed in the least restrictive educational and treatment settings.

## WHERE EVALUATIONS OCCUR

For school-age children, DART evaluations can be completed either while the child attends their home school or in the context of a short-term, diagnostic, educational placement at Wheeler's Northwest Village School. Diagnostic placements allow the evaluation team to observe the child, over time, during academic and social activities. Most evaluation components occur at Wheeler, 91 Northwest Drive, Plainville, CT 06062.

By request, many evaluation components can occur at a child's home school.

## THE DART EVALUATION PROCESS

Upon referral, specific questions and the evaluation components necessary to address them are identified. Evaluation components can include one or more of the following:

- Psychological
- Psychiatric
- Classroom observation
- Educational
- Speech/language
- Occupational therapy
- Problem sexual behavior
- In-home child and family assessment
- Substance abuse
- Vocational interest
- Neuropsychological
- Functional Behavior Assessment
- Autism Diagnostic Evaluations
- Sensory Evaluations

An intake is completed with the client, parents, and/or guardians to explain the process and gather initial information. With appropriate consents, contact is made with relevant providers (e.g., medical, clinical, educational) to gain additional information. Each evaluation component is completed by the appropriate member of the multidisciplinary team. The team meets to discuss findings and prepares a report that provides an integrated, comprehensive overview with specific recommendations to address identified concerns. Results of the report are presented in person to the referral source, client, parents/guardians, school system, or others upon request.

### Whom to Refer

Children and adolescents between 4 and 21 years of age

### When to Refer

For assistance making program and placement decisions, independent evaluation, and/or a comprehensive and integrated study of the client.

### Referrals Accepted From

- School Systems
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Developmental Services
- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Behavioral Health Providers
- Parents
- Pediatricians
- Courts

### Timetable

Upon receipt of a referral, a projected completion date is negotiated between the DART coordinator and the referrer. The DART team recognizes the importance of efficiency when completing evaluations. Most evaluations can be completed within 45 working days from intake.

To make a referral to the DART Program, or obtain additional information, please contact:

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