Admissions Process
Access Center staff will complete an initial evaluation and gather information about the reasons for your child’s hospitalization, including current symptoms and stressors. It is important for the staff to have the most current information on your medical, psychiatric and therapy providers, as well as medications being taken. Please bring along your list of medications, your insurance card, contact information and basic information about your child’s medical issues.

WellSpan Philhaven is south central Pennsylvania’s most comprehensive behavioral health organization, serving Adams, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties through 54 programs and 27 care locations. For 65 years, we have focused on treating the whole person – mind, body and soul. We offer services for all ages and various levels of care, including hospitalization, residential and day programs, outpatient counseling, and services in the home, school and community. WellSpan Philhaven is part of WellSpan Health, an integrated health system serving the region with more than 1,200 physicians and advanced practice clinicians, six respected hospitals, 15,000 employees and more than 130 care locations.
Who Will Care for My Child?

You and your child will be part of a treatment team consisting of a psychiatrist, registered nurse, therapist and caseworker. A child and adolescent psychiatrist will see your child on a daily basis. In addition, your child will have a primary therapist who will provide individual and family interventions as needed. Registered nurses provide 24-hour supervision of care being provided to ensure that quality and safety standards are met. Activities specialists design and lead a variety of group sessions and activities.

A caseworker will work with your family throughout your child’s stay. This caseworker will also help develop a discharge plan that identifies professional and natural supports.

Your Stay at WellSpan Philhaven

At the time of admission, you and your child will meet with a registered nurse, who will complete a nursing assessment. Some personal belongings will need to be placed in a secured area or sent home at this time. These items include but are not limited to aerosol cans, cell phones, clothing with strings, electronic devices, glass, lighters, sharps, tobacco products and weapons. Staff will review the unit’s behavioral expectations and guidelines and will provide a general orientation of the unit.

The Scope of Inpatient Care

The Child and Adolescent Inpatient Program is designed to treat children and adolescents who experience significant mental health issues. Children (ages 4-11) and adolescents (ages 12-17) participate in separate age-appropriate curriculums.

All interactions, structured groups and unit activities are designed to help your child or adolescent learn healthier coping skills. These skills aid him or her in gaining control of the behaviors that brought about the hospitalization. Attention will be given to diagnosis, assessment and the selection of treatment interventions that will help to stabilize your child’s behavior or condition quickly. Academic support is based on instructional levels and is provided by our certified teachers.

Any of the following care services may be offered or implemented:

- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Medical Evaluation
- Individual Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Expressive Therapy
- Recreational Therapy
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Groups
- Social Skills Training
- Goal Setting Group
- Coping Skills Group
- Educational Instruction
- Spiritual Group (optional for adolescents)
- Medication Management