

Expanded Behavioral Health Services for Children

Thundermist Health Center implemented an innovative program to address the pediatric behavioral health crisis and help the families in our communities. Thundermist offers behavioral health services available in Kent and Washington Counties to children and adolescents referred by their non-Thundermist primary care provider. Services include psychiatric evaluations, medication evaluations, and counseling provided in an outpatient setting. Patients do not need to receive medical care at Thundermist.

Patients will be cared for by a robust team of behavioral health providers. The care team will include psychiatric nurse practitioner fellows overseen by five preceptors with vast and varied experience caring for complex patients. The preceptors will provide onsite support and direction and be solely dedicated to the care the fellows are delivering. In addition to being seen by fellowship providers, we have experienced psychiatric nurse practitioners and child and adolescent psychiatrists, who are also accepting new patients. There are a number of child and adolescent behavioral health clinicians supporting the team.

There will be ongoing communication and collaboration with the patient's medical provider to ensure an integrated approach to care. Diagnostic Interviews with Counselors generally occur within 2 weeks of completed referrals and Psychiatric appointments within 3 weeks.

Qualifications:

- All referrals must come from the patient's primary care provider
- The primary care provider must designate a point of contact for coordination. The provider must also be willing to give relevant medical updates.
- Patient can maintain relationships with outside therapists, but:
- Will have at least a reassessment visit with a Thundermist counselor
- The outside counselor must be aware of the referral, in agreement with the referral, and willing to coordinate with Thundermist.
- The patient must meet the requirements for an outpatient level of care (does not require intensive home-based, intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization, or inpatient care).
- Priority will be given to children under the age of 19.
- Sliding fee scale available and most insurances accepted.
- Assistance paying for medication is available for eligible patients.

Christie's daughter was referred to Thundermist for behavioral health care by their doctor after years of mental health issues and ADHD.

“Behavioral health care at a young age is so important. Especially now. I am so grateful that I was referred to Thundermist for my daughter. I have seen a big improvement and it is great to know people actually care about our kids.

She has gone through a lot over the past year, we moved to a new school and I lost my job. Now she gets help for her separation anxiety and ADHD. Even during the pandemic, they can help through virtual visits or over the phone.”

Program Coordinator:

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**Program Hours:
Open weekdays with
evening hours.**

Thundermist locations:

1 River St., Wakefield

186 Providence St., West Warwick

450 Clinton St., Woonsocket

“I used to get frustrated with the numerous mental health appointments in my daily schedule until the Thundermist Behavioral Health Center opened its doors.

Now, I am able to refer my patients to a trained mental health provider who can provide counseling and medication management. It has made my work load easier, but more importantly, it provides my patients with the care they need - something I was finding a hard time doing by myself.

My patients and their families are overjoyed with how quickly they can be seen and completely satisfied with the care they receive. This program is a complete success for my practice, my patients, and the community!”

- Dr. Roger Fazio, Wakefield Pediatrics

