



Intake Criteria and Program Highlights

Charles Hall Youth Services is a faith-based, not-for-profit, residential foster care organization serving at-risk boys and girls, typically ages 12-17 years old. Our community-based agency owns and operates three (3) group homes in residential neighborhoods in the city of Bismarck. Placements include youth under the custody of North Dakota's Division of Juvenile Services, County Social Services, Tribal Social Services, or Department of Human Services. Youth considered for placement will be assessed using information from the **Universal Application for Residential Services**, as well as other relevant information and/or reports.

Our **ESSENTIAL Gears Program averages 6 – 8 months** for most children placed at Charles Hall Youth Services. Program length is based on the unique needs of specific youth. Programming is strength-based, trauma-informed, and child-centered. Youth attend public school during their placement. If needed, Charles Hall does have access to Dakota Memorial School for a limited number of youth placements until they are able to transition to area public schools. Charles Hall staffing includes: social workers, professional counselor (LPC), licensed addiction counselor (LAC), nurse (RN), residential care managers (group home managers), resident life coaches, independent life skills and mentor program coordinator, rec and fitness coordinator, spiritual life coordinator, academic tutors, and community mentors. In addition, the program team includes our program director (LCSW) and our residential services director. One of our co-executive directors is a master's level social worker and a certified clinical trauma professional (CCTP).

Our addiction program, AWAKEN, uses the Matrix Model for Teens and Young Adults combined with our core ESSENTIAL© programming. In addition, we incorporate DRUMBEAT™ in our group programming with complex trauma youth. Our community-based mentor program, CREATING CONNECTIONS, pairs selected youth with community mentors for relationship-building and social skills development.

Individual program goals and a youth's case plan (ICP) are completed within the first 30 days of placement. The Gears Program, which is instrumental in the implementation of ESSENTIAL© includes: Orientation, Gear One, Gear Two, Gear Three, Honor Gear (for selected youth). Each gear in our ESSENTIAL Program has specific cognitive and behavioral expectations tied specifically to the individual needs of the youth. The time it takes for each youth to meet these expectations and complete a specific gear will vary. Feel free to contact our **Program Director at 701-391-4045 or 701-255-2773, ext. 305**, if you have any questions.

Appropriate referrals include:

1. Youth who need more structure than the home setting can provide.
2. Youth who have not responded to less-restrictive forms of therapy and placement. The youth is presumed to be able to benefit from a program that offers challenges and support in a home-like milieu or setting (group home).
3. Youth with substance abuse and chemical dependency issues who need outpatient treatment to begin their recovery process.
4. Youth needing direct care staff support, coaching and structure to promote school and/or outpatient treatment attendance/performance.
5. Youth who need a safe living environment due to abuse/neglect in the home.
6. Youth needing step-down programming from a higher level of care (PRTF or YCC) in order to transition to a more permanent placement.
7. Children typically ages 12-17 do best in our community-based program setting.

Referrals NOT good matches for our services include:

1. Youth who require constant eyes-on supervision 24/7.
2. Youth who engage in serious self-injurious behavior.
3. Youth currently under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
4. Youth who have a history of sexual perpetration and have not completed a sexual offender treatment program.
5. Youth with significantly impaired cognitive ability (i.e., IQ of 70 or below).
6. Youth who struggle with intense psychiatric issues with severe impairment to multiple life domains.