

NE DCS Guidelines for COE Referrals

The ETSU Center of Excellence (COE) for Children in State Custody is located in the ETSU Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at 2 Professional Park Dr, Suite 21, Johnson City, TN 37604.

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The COE provides consultation for children in custody and at risk of custody with complex medical, behavioral, psychological, and psychiatric problems. Services include case triage, case review, comprehensive consultation conferences, psychiatric evaluations, targeted psychological testing, limited medication management, behavioral health and medical record review, and medication gap filling. The following guidelines are summarized to facilitate referrals to the ETSU COE.

I. Triage Process:

1. Child with no previous COE contact:

- a) Consult with the **Child Health Unit** *first* to determine the appropriateness of referral.
 - Regional Mental Health Clinician – Dr Sharon Farge (sharon.farge@tn.gov)
 - NE Health Advocate- Deanna Humphrey (deanna.humphrey@tn.gov)
 - DCS Regional Nurse: Susan Smith (susan.smith@tn.gov)

*If the Health Unit professional is not available and you are in a meeting considering a COE referral, you can **contact the COE directly** at (423) 379-8085 to begin the triage process.

- b) If the DCS Team deems the referral appropriate, a member of the team should refer directly to the COE (see below) and simultaneously notify the Regional Mental Health Clinician that the referral is being made. Examples of potential referring teams are: CFTMs, Best Practices Review team, UR, etc.

2. Child with previous COE services (consultation conference, psychiatric evaluation, or CFTM participation): Contact the COE directly and simultaneously notify the Regional Mental Health Clinician of the referral.

II. How to make a COE Referral:

1. Call the COE directly at (423) 379-8085
2. **OR** email both Erin Britton (brittonea@etsu.edu) and Michele Moser (michele.moser@tn.gov) to schedule a time to discuss the referral.
3. Complete the **COE Referral Form** (also on our website: <https://www.etsu.edu/statecustody/>).
4. Simultaneously notify the Regional Mental Health Clinician for Northeast Region.
5. The COE will set a mutually agreed upon time to discuss the referral and help clarify the type of service that is indicated and help identify needed supportive records and consents for release of information.