SERVICES

Murdoch Developmental Center is a CMS (federally) certified Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID), providing 24-hour comprehensive residential services. Murdoch serves adults from the 25 county Central Region of North Carolina and provides four specialized programs available for all residents of the state.

All residential areas at Murdoch provide a warm, homelike environment where people served and staff are treated with dignity and respect. The living areas are designed to meet the person centered needs and desires of the people living there. Bedrooms and living areas are individualized with personal possessions reflective of the persons’ desires and personality.

General/Professional Services

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During an admission at the Center, a team of professionals along with the person and their family/guardian develops a comprehensive Person Centered Plan that outlines the specific needs and wishes of the person. Team members from the center include representatives from the disciplines listed above. A goal of the Person centered process is to prepare the person for re-integration back to the community. Prior to discharge the team, including a representative from the person’s Management Care Organization, identifies community based services to support the person, based on their identified needs and wishes. A transition plan is then developed to support a successful move back to the community.

Statewide Programs

Murdoch Developmental Center operates statewide programs that include four specialized residential programs (PATH, STARS, BART, and TRACK):

**Partners in Autism Treatment and Habilitation (PATH)**

The PATH program is designed to serve children from ages 6 to 16 from across the state who has autism spectrum disorder and serious behavioral challenges. The PATH program currently has two components: A ten-person apartment style living unit is located in Summerset Cottage. The unit also has the capacity to serve two children as therapeutic respite admissions. The second component is two four-person community group homes. The PATH Home is located in Oxford, within 20 miles of Murdoch and the Wright PATH Home located near Franklinton, within 18 miles of the Center.

The PATH program includes school classrooms with PATH teachers and support staff at the Bonnie M. Springer School on Murdoch’s campus, and classrooms at the Butner Stem Middle School with teachers and support staff provided by Murdoch. Professional Services are provided along with direct care and support staff to assure safety and enhanced programming 24 hours per day. Treatment of behavior problems in the PATH program utilizes a behavioral analytical approach. All programs are designed both to reduce behavioral excesses as well as to accelerate positive social skills. Treatment includes person centered teaching in the areas of self-help, education, communication, and recreation as deemed necessary by the interdisciplinary treatment team. Behavior programs are carefully integrated across all areas of training, and are designed with consideration of the child’s eventual return home. Family and school training is available
as needed to enhance successful re-entry to the family home. In keeping with its goal for short-term therapeutic treatment, the maximum length of stay in the PATH program should normally not exceed 2 years.

**Behaviorally Advanced Residential Treatment (BART)**

The BART program serves adult males having mild intellectual challenges and/or other developmental disorders, who have a history of failed treatment placements and may include repeat criminal offenses. The BART unit was designed to provide a safe, secure, and engaging living environment for up to 15 men. Professional and direct care staff receives extensive training in Person Centered Planning, North Carolina Interventions (NCI), Behavior Intervention procedures, Skill Training procedures, and Positive Interaction procedures. Staff coverage assures safety and enhanced programming 24 hours per day.

Treatment of aberrant behavior in the BART program utilizes a behavioral analytical approach. All programs are designed both to reduce behavioral excesses as well as to accelerate positive social skills. Treatment also includes training in the areas of self-help, education, communication, vocation and recreation as deemed necessary by the interdisciplinary treatment team. Behavior programs are carefully integrated across all areas of training. New admissions to the BART program will have a memorandum of agreement for up to one year.

The BART “Next Step” program is an extension of BART, also located in Meadowview cottage. This program is designed to facilitate successful transition of people served in BART to community living settings.

**Specialized Treatment for Adolescents in a Residential Setting (STARS)**

The STARS program is a service provided by the State of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at Murdoch Developmental Center. The STARS program serves adolescents ages 13 through 17, from across the state that have a dual diagnosis (developmental disability and mental illness) and demonstrate extreme and dangerous forms of aberrant behavior. The STARS program is specifically designed for adolescents with developmental disabilities who have been unsuccessful in developing and maintaining an effective, pro-social behavioral repertoire in other treatment settings.

The STARS program includes school classrooms and STARS teachers along with direct care and support staff, located at the Bonnie M. Springer School which is operated by the Center. The STARS unit occupies two living units located in Murdoch’s Woodside Cottage. The STARS unit is designed to provide a safe, secure, engaging living environment for up to eighteen adolescents. The environment and its furnishings are attractive and homelike while designed and constructed to ensure safety and security. Professional services and direct care and supports are provided based on the individualized needs of the person and to assure safety and enhanced programming 24 hours per day. Guardians and family are welcome and encouraged to participate in the treatment team planning. The Managed Care Organization is expected to identify a person (e.g., Case Manager, Developmental Disabilities Coordinator) to interface with the treatment team and participate in transition team meetings.

Treatment in the STARS program utilizes a behavioral analytical approach. Individualized behavior intervention programs are developed and modified based on objective information obtained by direct observation of behavior. All programs are designed both to reduce behavioral excesses (e.g., physical and verbal aggression) as well as to accelerate positive social skills (e.g., communication, conflict resolution skills, and cooperation). Treatment also includes training in the areas of self-help, education, vocation, communication, and recreation as deemed appropriate by the interdisciplinary treatment team. Behavior programs are carefully integrated across all areas of training, and are designed with consideration for the person’s eventual return to the general community. In keeping with its goal for short-term therapeutic treatment, the maximum length of stay in the STARS program should normally not exceed 1 year.
The TRACK program serves children ages 5 through 17 from across the state who have intellectual disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorders and who are in a behavioral crisis. The TRACK program is located in Woodside Cottage at Murdoch Developmental Center. It is specifically designed to divert children in crisis from emergency departments and psychiatric hospitals when appropriate community-based crisis services have been exhausted. The program provides professional and support services and 24-hour staff coverage to assure safety and therapeutic programming integrated across all areas of training.

Treatment in the TRACK program utilizes a behavioral analytical approach with the primary focus of the program to stabilize the children so they can return the community as quickly as possible. The TRACK program partners with the Managed Care Organization to ensure ongoing community reintegration planning during their admission. In keeping with the goal of crisis respite, the TRACK program offers durations of stay limited to between 3 and 45 days.

For more information call TRACK at 919-575-1350.