Way Station, Inc., founded in 1978, is a 501(c)3, non-profit behavioral health organization dedicated to providing compassionate and quality behavioral health care, housing and employment services to adults with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance addictions; children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral challenges; and veterans with service needs.

Way Station embraces the principles of recovery and resilience and is committed to providing evidence-based, consumer-driven, and family-focused services.

Headquartered in Frederick, Maryland, Way Station has programs in four counties in Maryland and employs over 600 people. In 2015, Way Station served more than 5,000 individuals.

Who We Are . .

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Women’s Distance Festival

Our staff are proud of being “Way Station Strong”. For the past three years, Margaret Waterfield, HR Recruiter, has organized teams of over 25 WSI female staff who show their spirit at the annual Women’s Distance Festival. Our female staff came home with “Top Corporate Team” for two years in a row! Proceeds from the festival support the Women’s Giving Circle of Frederick County.

Strategic Imperatives

1) Deliver highest level of quality, and evidence-based services to our clients while striving to become a client and outcome-driven organization, with diversified revenue and funding streams.

2) Create a more effective, robust and passionate Way Station community, an environment where employees feel valued, fairly compensated, well trained, supported and informed.

3) Strengthen and sustain our Mission’s Work and its Impact.

4) Advocate for Increased Understanding of our Clients and their Needs.
Turning Point Mobile Crisis Program

This year, Washington County’s Turning Point added a program that will help community members more easily access mental health care. Thanks to the collaboration among Turning Point, Hagerstown Police, the County Sheriff’s Office and the Mental Health Authority, this new Mobile Crisis Services Program was developed and became fully active in the fall of 2015. Turning Point hired Travis Walter as the Mobile Crisis Social Worker to help develop and head the new program.

In 2014, The Hagerstown Police Department was called out on 652 mental health calls, and the projections for 2015 are looking to be much higher. While all officers are trained in Mental Health First Aid, and the department’s officers have begun training in Crisis Intervention, they are not equipped to provide in-depth assessments and linkage services that many of these community members may need. This is where the Mobile Crisis Services program comes in.

The program will be a continued collaboration between Turning Point and the Law Enforcement agencies within the county. A Mobile Crisis Social Worker (MCSW) will be dispatched on calls with Law Enforcement when it is determined that the call is due to mental health concerns.

The MCSW will conduct an assessment of the individual to help determine the best services to provide; these services vary widely depending on the situation. To help prepare for this role, the MCSW has spent several months networking and training with different service providers, law enforcement agencies and Meritus Medical Center staff in Washington County.

Howard County (RAP) Rapid Access Pilot Program

The Howard County Outpatient Mental Health Center has recently implemented a Mental Health Rapid Access Program (RAP).

The Howard County Rapid Access Pilot Program is designed to provide access to urgent, outpatient, crisis stabilization services within one to two business days of referral, for adult Howard County residents in need of immediate access to short term, psychiatric, problem-focused intervention, regardless of ability to pay.

This service is intended to prevent further emotional distress or decompensation, which otherwise would result in accessing more acute level of care.

Services will be provided through Way Station’s Outpatient Community Mental Health Clinic in Columbia, MD.

Services which are provided during an average “episode of care” include: one psychiatric evaluation with a Nurse Practitioner, two follow-up medication management sessions, a clinical evaluation with therapist and up to six follow-up therapy sessions.

Way Station will hold monthly case conferences with the referral sources to share clinical information and coordinate care of referred clients, review logistics of the referral process and examine program results in order to make adjustments as necessary to ensure that RAP clients receive the most efficient and effective care possible.

Maryland PROMISE Success Story

Maryland PROMISE [Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income] is a national, 5-year demonstration project that is a joint initiative between the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor. This initiative addresses many of the barriers to economic independence faced by SSI youth and their families. The following is just one Success Story.

17 year old Male Youth in Montgomery County.

The Case Manager met with the PROMISE youth and his mother to assist with transportation to Montgomery Community College. The goal of the trip to MCC was to attend a scheduled Disability Service appointment to learn about opportunities for the youth’s post-secondary educational future. The client wanted to participate in the summer youth program at MCC, but had to be admitted to the college first.

By assisting the youth in attending this appointment, the youth was able to apply to MCC. After applying, the youth was admitted as a high school student to MCC. Now that this youth has been admitted to MCC, he can participate in the summer youth program and possibly start non-credit or credit courses during his senior year in high school. Admission to MCC has opened up many future educational and employment opportunities for this youth which were not previously available.
Memorial Garden

Recently, Way Station commemorated a Memorial Garden to honor those in the Way Station family who have passed. The Garden was made possible by a generous gift from Walter Barbe, in memory of his son, Fred Barbe.

Child and Adolescent Services

The Child and Adolescent Services of Way Station seeks to assist youth with emotional and behavioral disabilities to learn and strengthen skills that are needed to successfully function at home, school, and in the community, as well as to support families in caring for their children with special needs. Although youth are considered the primary participants, staff collaborate with families whenever possible.

Way Station currently offers four Child and Adolescent Services designed to provide in-home intervention to help families manage their current situation in a way that keeps them together.

- **Family Preservation** is an intensive service that is designed to help families resolve crises and identify family based goals and create long term changes.
- **Multisystemic Therapy** targets high risk youth in Frederick and Washington Counties and works to reduce youth criminal activity and other types of anti-social behavior thereby decreasing rates of incarceration.
- **Children’s Mobile Crisis** provides services to Frederick County children and youth, 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year. The over-arching goals of this program include stabilizing children in crisis by providing brief, targeted interventions which support recovery and diverting psychiatric and/or legal out-of-home placements.
- **In-Homes Intervention Services** works directly with high-risk youth of families in Howard County providing counseling for up to 6 months.

Way Station also offers **Camp Journey Respite Program** where youth stay for a few hours to a few days, giving families a break from caring for the complex needs of their child, reducing the overall stress level in the family home to avoid more intensive placements for the youth.

During FY15, the Child and Adolescent division provided services to 225 families with a success rate of 95% of the youth served remaining in their homes at completion of service.
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