Community Care, in partnership with Northeast Behavioral Health Care Consortium (NBHCC), is making a change in the requirements for delivery of Residential Treatment Facility services (RTF), Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) Group Homes and CRR Host Homes. The four counties affected are as follows: Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Luzerne and Wyoming.

Together we believe that a closer working relationship among youth, families, CASSP coordinators, the county, provider and Community Care will improve communication, the quality of care delivered to children and adolescents, coordination of care, and resources in the local community. This communication will in turn keep youth within their natural environment, and minimize the risk for out-of-home placement.

In order to achieve these goals, Community Care and NBHCC will jointly require the following:

- Prior to considering RTF, CRR Group Home or CRR host Home the ISPT or treatment team will explore less restrictive community based treatment options, utilizing resources such as Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) as possible.

- Prior to writing a prescription for any out of home placement, the team will identify a team member to contact the county CASSP Coordinator and the Community Care care manager to schedule an ISPT/Treatment Team meeting to discuss options and consider whether enhanced services in the community and additional community and natural supports might meet the needs of the individual youth and family rather than RTF, CRR Group Home or CRR Host Home.

- When least restrictive options have been reviewed and are not appropriate the ISPT treatment team shall coordinate a team meeting to discuss higher levels of care. The CASSP Coordinator in the child’s county of residence must be notified (see attached list of county CASSP Coordinators) of any upcoming ISPT or treatment team meeting at least 48 hours prior to the meeting when RTF, CRR Group Home or CRR Host Home is being considered. It is expected that the Care Manager and CASSP Coordinator will participate in the ISPT/Treatment Team meeting.

We appreciate your cooperation in this important change. Together we believe that this will indeed improve the quality of the treatment process and enhance coordination of services.