Challenges Program

The Challenges Program is a flexible, family-focused intervention. Workers meet with families in their homes to teach and model, for parents/caregivers, specific skills in behaviour management, conflict resolution, problem solving and advocacy. The length of intervention is based on the needs of the family (approximately 3 to 5 months). Booster sessions (follow-up support) are available following the completion of the program.

Goals of the Program:

- To improve parent/caregiver abilities and skills to effectively manage their child’s behaviour
- To keep children and youth in the home and out of the care of Peel Children’s Aid or other residential placement

Inclusionary Criteria:

- Residents of Peel
- Children/youth, up to their 18th birthday, and their families
- Children/youth experiencing difficulties at home, school and/or in the community
- Parents/caregivers expressing difficulty in managing their child’s behaviour
- Parents/caregivers who agree to actively participate in the program
- Parents/caregivers who prefer to have service offered in their home

Exclusionary Criteria:

- Parents/caregivers who require, but are not receiving, support or treatment for mental health issues, marital conflict, or substance use issues

Referral Sources:

- Peel Children’s Aid
- Community/self referrals via Mental Health Services for Children and Youth (Centralized Intake)
- Internal transfers via Mental Health Services for Children and Youth (Centralized Intake) transfer protocol
Referral Process:
Parents/caregivers can make a self-referral by calling Mental Health Services for Children and Youth (Centralized Intake) at (905) 451-4655.

Families are also eligible for this program through the Internal Transfer Protocol via Mental Health Services for Children and Youth (Centralized Intake). After consultation with the Challenges Program Supervisor or Service Co-ordinator, the internal transfer package, including signed consent form, can be faxed to the Challenges Program.

Peel Children’s Aid workers forward referrals to the designated Peel Children’s Aid Supervisor. These are faxed to the Challenges Program Supervisor. Consults with the Challenges Program Supervisor or Service Co-ordinator are welcome, to ensure appropriate referrals.

The Challenges Program Supervisor is available to answer any questions you may have regarding the referral process or program criteria.