

Children's Residential Treatment Program at Marshall Pickens



**GREENVILLE
HEALTH SYSTEM**

The Program

- 2 units (Bobcats and Pandas)
- Bobcats ages 9 to 12
- Up to a year stay
- Individual, group, and family therapy
- time outs, merit/demerit system
- Behavior plans
- Goal- reintegrate children back into their home environment



The children

- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- More severe than parents can handle at home
- Significant problems in the classroom
- Harm to self or others



Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Diagnostic Criteria

313.81 (F91.3)

- A. A pattern of angry/irritable mood, argumentative/defiant behavior, or vindictiveness lasting at least 6 months as evidenced by at least four symptoms from any of the following categories, and exhibited during interaction with at least one individual who is not a sibling.

Angry/Irritable Mood

1. Often loses temper.
2. Is often touchy or easily annoyed.
3. Is often angry and resentful.

Argumentative/Defiant Behavior

4. Often argues with authority figures or, for children and adolescents, with adults.
5. Often actively defies or refuses to comply with requests from authority figures or with rules.
6. Often deliberately annoys others.
7. Often blames others for his or her mistakes or misbehavior.

Vindictiveness

8. Has been spiteful or vindictive at least twice within the past 6 months.

Note: The persistence and frequency of these behaviors should be used to distinguish a behavior that is within normal limits from a behavior that is symptomatic. For children younger than 5 years, the behavior should occur on most days for a period of at least 6 months unless otherwise noted (Criterion A8). For individuals 5 years or older, the behavior should occur at least once per week for at least 6 months, unless otherwise noted (Criterion A8). While these frequency criteria provide guidance on a minimal level of frequency to define symptoms, other factors should also be considered, such as whether the frequency and intensity of the behaviors are outside a range that is normative for the individual's developmental level, gender, and culture.

- B. The disturbance in behavior is associated with distress in the individual or others in his or her immediate social context (e.g., family, peer group, work colleagues), or it impacts negatively on social, educational, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.
- C. The behaviors do not occur exclusively during the course of a psychotic, substance use, depressive, or bipolar disorder. Also, the criteria are not met for disruptive mood dysregulation disorder.

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed.)

My role

- Shadowing behavioral therapist
- Facilitating group therapy
- Monitoring and assessing children's behavior
- Lego club



What I've learned

- Mental health is very complicated
- People rarely fit into neat DSM boxes
- Mental illness stigma
- Public school system

