New Hope Carolinas
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility

Learning Enriched Autism Program (LEAP)

LEAP Youth Program
Mission Statement

The Mission of our programming for individuals with autism is to respond quickly when a youth and family are in distress. We provide comprehensive assessments to clarify the needs of the youth and family, and we provide interventions which are carefully designed to rapidly and safely transition the youth back to the community or other appropriate placement.

Who is Appropriate for Admission?

This program is specifically designed for youth who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and are in immediate need of placement for short-term stabilization and/or longer term behavioral interventions in order to transition to a more permanent community-based living environment.

Services Offered

New Hope Carolinas, Inc., a 150-bed, Joint Commission and AdvancED Accredited Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF), now offering a short-term crisis stabilization and evaluation and longer term behavioral intervention program, for Adolescent Males ages 12 to 18 diagnosed with Autism.

Youth entering the Learning Enriched Autism Program (LEAP) will receive a comprehensive behavioral health assessment which considers medical, psychological, educational and social factors in evaluating a youth’s mental health, academic, social and functional capacity. The program is designed to stabilize the youth and provide a comprehensive diagnostic assessment, outlining treatment and care needs. In addition, each resident will receive individual and group, speech and language, physical and occupational therapy services as indicated, as well as education services.

The environment of care for this program has been designed with the specific needs of youth with ASD in mind. Individual rooms for each youth, suspension swings and trampolines, retractable shower heads and bathtubs, muted lighting and overall subdued coloring and aesthetics, as well as availability of individualized food storage and preparation to accommodate unique food preferences are just some of the unique aspects of this program environment. Augmentative and alternative communication systems, such as tablets and picture exchange, will be utilized as needed. In instances where youth are dependent on restrictive devices, such as helmets, policy will cover the utilization and tracking, while treatment planning will address the goal of reduction/cessation of use.

LEAP has 1:1 resident to staff ratios, awake night staff, around the clock nursing services and a fully accredited education program within a highly structured, culturally sensitive setting. The program can accept youth outside of traditional business hours and provides a mental health screening, risk assessment, medical screening and a comprehensive functional behavioral assessment. Programming includes behavioral analysis and individualized targeted inventions, all carefully supervised by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Onsite medical care, structured recreation therapy and life skills training and, dependent upon the needs identified through initial screening, may include speech/language, physical and/or occupational therapies from professionals demonstrating expertise in the care and treatment of youth with ASD. Family visitation and engagement are encouraged and supported, and a comprehensive transition plan outlining the level of care and type of treatment services indicated is included.
The **ASD Program** employs highly skilled clinicians and staff who embrace a positive psychological philosophy of care and are trained in *Applied Behavior Analysis techniques*. Staff are trained to educate and complete Activities of Daily Living (ADL) with each youth.

**Clinical Services:** Individual and group therapy occurs a minimum of 3 to 5 times per week provided by a Master’s Level Clinician. Family therapy is also available as indicated.

**Education Services:** A Certified Special Education Teacher oversees a six hour school day, which is facilitated year round. Students have a variety of options to pursue, including individualized online learning or participation in a traditional classroom setting.

**Medical Care:** New Hope operates an onsite Medical Clinic 7 days a week. A developmental pediatrician who specializes in Autism will provide medical support. Vision, hearing and nutritional screenings are included in the initial assessment.

**Recreation Therapy:** Certified Recreation Therapists design and facilitate recreational therapy services daily.

**Transitional Services/Case Management:** New Hope will provide Case Management services to assist the referral source in identifying and securing appropriate services and placement upon discharge. New Hope’s Education Department will identify and communicate with the receiving public school or alternative educational setting to ensure testing and/or credits earned are properly transferred to the receiving school upon discharge. The therapist will provide a comprehensive individualized behavior plan to allow for the receiving person or instruction to anticipate the supports needed to best serve the individual.

**Referral Information**

To initiate a referral, please contact New Hope Treatment Centers’ National Referral System (NRS) at:

1-800-776-6482

Or email nrs@newhopetreatment.com

*Our goal is to facilitate admission within 24 hours of referral. As this service is for short-term stabilization/assessment purposes and will generally last less than 30 days, Interstate Compact is not required for youth coming from other states.*

*For more information on all of our Adolescent Programs, New Hope Treatment Centers and our Partnerships, please visit our website at [www.newhopetreatment.com](http://www.newhopetreatment.com).*