New Focus is a program of Child and Family Charities. The agency is licensed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for substance abuse screening, assessment, treatment, referral, follow-up and prevention services.

Child and Family Charities is accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Services to Families and Children. Funding for the New Focus program is provided by the Mid-State Health Network. Private insurance is also accepted.

New Focus is supported by research and the latest findings on effective adolescent treatment practices.

The program treatment approach literally applies a new focus to counseling troubled youth. Known as Motivational Enhancement/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, this new approach emphasizes the individual strengths of each adolescent, understands and works with resistance to change, and helps adolescents learn and apply new coping skills to replace destructive behaviors.

Program staff maintain a philosophy that adolescents are most likely to change when motivation comes from within themselves, not from other people.

The goal of New Focus is to:

♦ motivate and assist youth to reduce and stop substance use;
♦ teach effective coping skills;
♦ improve individual functioning and family cohesion.

Clinton County Office
911 East State St. (M-21)
St. Johns, MI 48879
(Inside Caring and Sharing Life Services)
New Focus is a program for adolescents age 10-20 years old who are using alcohol and other drugs. New Focus provides a comprehensive array of services designed to meet the unique needs of young people and their families.

Program elements include:
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Early Intervention Services
- Continuing Care & Follow-up
- Referral to Community Resources

What is New Focus?

Warning signs for teens who are abusing alcohol and other drugs include:
- Missing school or declining grades.
- Mood swings.
- Change in peer group.
- Use of incense, room deodorant or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors.
- Changes in conversations with friends; more secretive, "coded" language.
- Change in clothing choices—new clothes that highlight drug use.
- Increase in borrowing money.
- Drug paraphernalia, such as pipes or rolling papers.
- Eye drops to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils.
- Use of mouthwash or breath mints to cover-up alcohol or drug use.
- Missing prescription drugs.

About Staff

The therapists of New Focus have graduate degrees in social work, counseling, or psychology. In addition, each therapist receives specialized training and supervision in adolescent substance abuse treatment, mental health and family counseling.

How to Make a Referral

To make a referral or schedule an appointment, please call:

517-882-4000, ext. 117

New Focus accepts most insurances. A sliding fee scale is available for uninsured, low and moderate income families. No one will be denied services because of inability to pay.

Referrals can come from schools, Juvenile Court, Parents, Churches, or any other community organization in which a youth participates in activities.

If referred from school or court, a referral will be sent to Child and Family Charities with the student’s name, grade, contact information, and what brought on the referral.

Once the referral is received, the parent will be contacted to schedule an appointment for an assessment. The parent and student will be offered assessment times within 14 days following the referral.

Confirmation stating that the student attended the assessment as well as the recommendations that were made will be sent to the referral source after obtaining a release of information from the student.