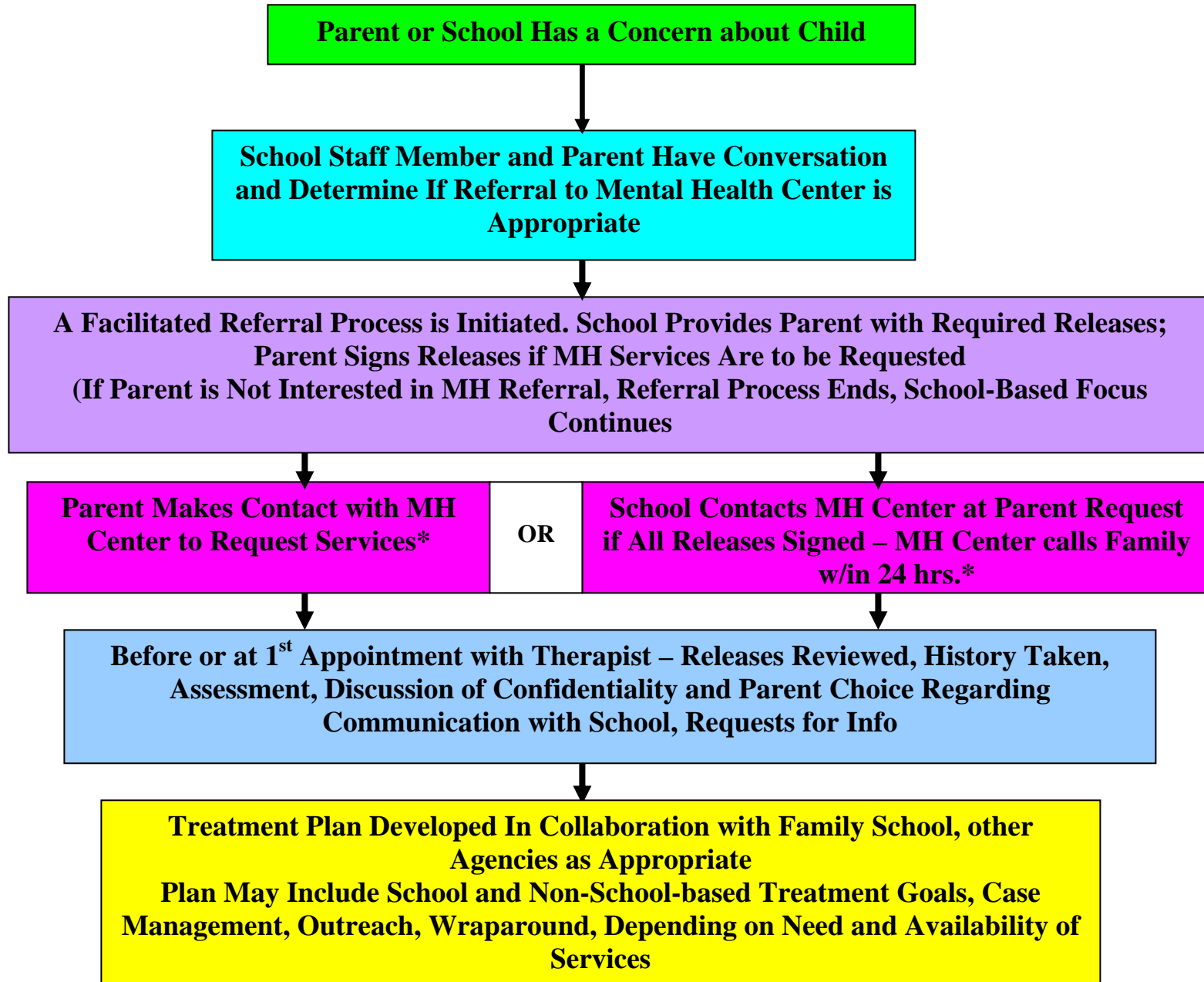


**School-Facilitated Referral Process for Accessing Community Mental Health Services
Lakes and Strafford County Collaboratives**

Communication between family, school and mental health center per releases and parent choice .



***TRIAGE – Level of Urgency Determines Timeline
Emergency Treatment if Necessary – 1st Appt. As Soon As Possible, Usually 2-3 Weeks.**

Discussion Points Regarding School – Mental Health Referral Process

- Process does not replace or negate mandated reporting requirements for abuse/neglect
- MH services are voluntary. Some families may access services from private practitioners. Parent always determines what info to share with school regarding mental health services being received by child/family
- Parents must see referral process as clear and prompt access to mental health services
- Relationships and trust are key factors in work between all partners
- Parent has legal choice regarding mental health services (as with any medical service), including whether or not to request and consent to services
- Parent determines communication channels and specifics of communication regarding child's mental health treatment and/or school program
- Mental health clinicians may exercise clinical/ethical judgment regarding sharing info with schools (including treatment plan)
- Schools may not want copies of whole treatment plan as staff may not want responsibility of determining what info should be shared with whom. School may want only info related to school-related issues
- Permissions, releases and treatment plans must be renewed yearly. Treatment plans expire if not renewed or if parent withdraws from treatment. If permissions, releases and treatment plans have expired, it's necessary to start referral process again
- The timeline for referral and implementation may be impacted if child is not living with parent/guardian as legal parent/guardian responsible for decisions regarding mental health referral and treatment