Definition of Child with High Acuity Needs

- A child with High Acuity needs is a child that is experiencing severe symptoms related to a mental health, substance use disorder or intellectual or developmental disability or co-morbid conditions that are not able to be managed in the community based system or controlled by medications. These symptoms create a current disruption in the child's ability to participate in community based settings and traditional services.

- A child with High Acuity needs may present with a variety of manifestations to include but not limited to physical or sexual aggression toward others in recent history, complex trauma, multisystem involvement, suicidal or homicidal ideations or actions toward self or others and/or psychosis or other thought disorders.

- A child with High Acuity has an immediate need for high level services to stabilize their condition. If the child does not receive the higher level services the results could result in harm to the child/family.

- A child with High Acuity needs requires intensive transition planning and wrap around services for effective discharge back to the community based service array.