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MCO Communication Bulletin #J086

Date: July 14, 2014

To: LME-MCO CEOs

From: Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Contracts Section, DMA, and Courtney Cantrell, Ph.D., Acting Director, and Eric Harbour, Child Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Lead, Best Practices and Community Innovations Team, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Multisystemic Therapy Services (MST)

Eligibility

Clarification: A child or adolescent does not have to be adjudicated delinquent by the court to be authorized for MST Services.

There is conflicting language in Clinical Policy 8A regarding the MST target population. Adjudication is referenced in error in the entrance criteria on page 50; however, it is not included in the description of the services on page 48 or in the Medicaid State Plan. Adjudication not being a required entrance criterion is consistent with previous interpretations by the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS).

If utilization reviewers are concerned regarding this element, please note that under the provisions of Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment, any such policy limitation can be waived if the service is otherwise medically necessary. Medicaid Clinical Policy staff will make the appropriate edit in the next policy update.

Team Size Composition

Question: Is it acceptable for MST providers to have a team consisting of one supervisor and four qualified professional (QPs) staff if the number of beneficiaries does not exceed 20 beneficiaries per team?

Yes. After review by Clinical Policy and consultation with Rate Setting staff members, it has been determined that it is acceptable to have four QPs and a supervisor if the number of beneficiaries does not exceed 20 per team.

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