



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: Executive Director, Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers
Executive Directors, Local Mental Health Authorities
Executive Director, Disability Rights Texas
Members of the Local Area Network Advisory Committee (LANAC)
Members of the Counsel on Advising and Planning (CAP) for the
Treatment of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders

FROM: Ross Robinson, Director *(RCR)*
Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Program Services

SUBJECT: CMS NEWS: CMS Announces Training Opportunity: Becoming a Certified
Application Counselor Organization

With the October 2014, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the new Health Insurance Marketplaces will allow the uninsured whose income is 100% to 400% of the federal poverty guideline to have the opportunity to shop for and compare insurance benefits and costs before purchasing an insurance plan. As part of the implementation plan, there is an opportunity for organizations to become a "Certified Application Counselor (CAC) organization." This certification will allow the organization to be a resource to assist eligible individuals to understand new coverage options as they enroll.

The department is receiving information about how the Marketplaces will operate and is contemplating the impact on services provided by local mental health authorities (LMHAs). In the current Charges for Community-Based Services rule (Chapter 412, Subchapter C), LMHAs are required to assist individuals to enroll in Medicaid. Accordingly, DSHS anticipates modifying this rule to require that LMHAs assist and support individuals who are potentially eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan. Therefore, the department encourages LMHAs to become CACs to support this important activity and ensure that the benefits coordinators receive training.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the availability of training for volunteers and staff to assist individuals to apply for coverage through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace. Applications are now available for interested organizations to complete at <http://marketplace.cms.gov/help-us/cac.html>.

The basic training sessions that will provide the necessary information to become a CAC organization include the following topics: requirements for a CAC organization; how to apply to become certified as a CAC organization; overview of training requirements; Marketplace eligibility and enrollment; Medicaid expansion; and the streamlined application process. There are several training dates and sessions to choose from. Interested organizations may select a preferred date and time from the list and links provided below. Organizations may click on the Webinar link to register.

| Date | Time | Webinar Link |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| July 31, 2013 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET | https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1020077 |
| August 1, 2013 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET | https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1019916 |
| August 5, 2013 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET | https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1020167 |
| August 7, 2013 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET | https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1020171 |

Webinar audio will be delivered over the Internet (VOIP) and will play through computer speakers, or audio may be streamed from a mobile device (smart phone or tablet.) If the audio will not play through a computer, e-mail training@cms.hhs.gov to make alternate arrangements.