



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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To: Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)
Executive Directors
Children's Mental Health Directors
Behavioral Health Directors
North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA)

From: Trina Ita, Director
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Program Services Section II

Re: Changes to Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver Policy Manual

Purpose:

Updates have been made to the YES Waiver policy manual, and will be visible when the policy manual is posted to the YES Waiver website in July 2016. The updates will reflect the following changes:

- Age Eligibility of 3 to 18 years of age, up to the last day of the 10th month before a youth's 19th birthday, policies 1000.00, 2000.00, 2000.1.
- School Age Respite for participants 6 to 18 years of age, up to the last day of the 10th month before a youth's 19th birthday, policies 2400.12, 2400.13, 2400.14, 2400.15, 2400.16, 2400.17, 2600.13, 2600.14, 2600.14, 2600.15, 2600.16, 2600.17, 2600.18.
- Billing of participants age 18 years, up to the last day of the 10th month before a participant's 19th birthday, and the TMHP procedure code, policy 2600.24.
- Physician signature is needed if Criteria D is not met on Clinical Eligibility Determination. Criteria D pertains to the Texas Medicaid Inpatient Psychiatric Admission Guidelines, policy 2000.2.
- Maximum Enrollment for each LMHA is determined by DSHS, at least annually or when necessary, in response to geographic service demand, service needs, and community infrastructure, policies 2000.1, 2200.1.
- The Wraparound Facilitator must verify a comprehensive waiver provider's ability to submit claims for waiver services by checking for a TMHP authorization number in CMBHS, policy 2100.1.

- DSHS will authorize a “pending” CED for children without Medicaid, policy 2100.2.
- Participant and legal authorized representative (LAR) notification of a waiver vacancy availability that is projected within a 30 day time frame, policy 2200.1.
- Description of good faith effort to engage the participant and LAR prior to termination of services for non-participation, policy 2200.11.

Impact

- Age Changes: Low impact, as CMBHS does not currently allow service authorization past the last day of the 10th month prior to a youth’s 19th birthday. Transition planning should occur by the 6th month, following the youth’s 18th birthday.
- Physician Signature: Moderate impact, as a physician signature is only needed for a clinical eligibility denial based on Criteria D which is the Texas Medicaid Inpatient Psychiatric Admission Guidelines. LMHAs may operationalize this policy within current business practices.
- Maximum Enrollment: Low impact, as consistent with the approved waiver, DSHS allocates funded waiver vacancies per LMHA. Maximum enrollment may assist LMHAs with program staffing concerns. LMHAs may need to update Inquiry List procedures to incorporate maximum enrollment.
- Verify Comprehensive Waiver Provider’s Ability to Submit Claims: Low impact, as this policy is aligned with current CMBHS functionality. Providers cannot submit YES claims without Medicaid verification or a TMHP authorization number.
- Pending CED: Low impact, policy is aligned with current CMBHS functionality.
- Notification of Waiver Vacancy Availability Projected Within 30 days: Low impact, as this policy correlates to the maximum enrollment and inquiry list policy updates.
- Good Faith Effort of Engagement: Low impact, as this policy is consistent with current procedure for terminations.

Contact

For questions or further information regarding the YES Waiver policy manual, please contact Annette Brown at Annette.Brown@dshs.state.tx.us or (512) 838-4361.

For questions regarding the YES Waiver, please contact Jennifer Martinez at JenniferM.Martinez@dshs.state.tx.us or (512) 838-4358.