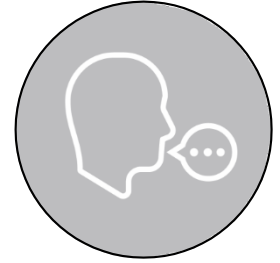


UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Newsletter for Louisiana Behavioral Health Providers



News and Updates

Please be aware of these important behavioral health provider related updates.

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) License Rule Revisions

The department has published revisions to the BHS licensing rule. The revisions are accessible on the Health Standards Section Website [here](#), and via the July 20, 2017 edition of the *LA Register*, Division of Administration (DOA) Website [here](#).

Revisions include, but are not limited to:

- allowing the **Medical Director** role to be filled by a **Physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) or Medical Psychologist** with a current, unrestricted license to practice in Louisiana with two years of qualifying experience in treating psychiatric disorders;
- removes the requirement for medication management as a core service, only for Mental Health Rehabilitation (MHR) providers exclusively providing Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT) or Homebuilders. (Additional content was added for the requirement on meeting the medical needs of clients, (e.g. screening, referral, collaboration with the treating provider, etc.)
- provision of an exception to the Medical Director requirement for MHR providers **exclusively** providing MST, FFT or homebuilders; such agencies shall have a **Clinical Director**, which may be filled by a Licensed Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) with a minimum of two years qualifying experience treating psychiatric disorders (and an unrestricted license to practice in LA).

Please review all revisions and associated requirements on the [BHS provider licensing page](#).

Act 33 – Removal of License Exemption for Certain MHR Providers

The Health Standards Section (HSS) has posted [Act 33](#) to their website, which **removes the exemption** for legacy MHR agencies that met certain criteria. HSS has also posted a [Memo to Behavioral Health Service Providers](#), which notifies providers of the pertinent parts of Act 33.

Important Deadlines to Remember

- Completed licensing application due to HSS on or before **December 1, 2017**;
- Formerly exempt MHR providers must be licensed **prior to April 1, 2018**.

Act 311 – Update on Criminal Background Checks Requirement

In accordance with Act 311, HSS posted a [Memo to HSS Licensed Health Care Providers](#) notifying providers of the requirement to request “criminal history and security checks on non-licensed persons prior to any employer making an offer to employ or to contract with a non-licensed person” per R.S. 40:1203.1-5. This includes facilities and organizations licensed as BHS providers. More information on Act 311 may be found [here](#).

However, please be reminded that although Act 311 establishes requirements for criminal background checks for **non-licensed individuals and contractors**, per the Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual, **all persons prior to employment/contracting must pass criminal background checks**. This includes licensed staff and contracted licensed practitioners. Information pertinent to this requirement may be found via the [Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual](#).

Questions associated with the revisions and updates should be directed to **Desiree Castello, Health Standards Section**. Ms. Castello may be reached via email at Desiree.Castello@LA.GOV.

Training Opportunities

- **UnitedHealthcare Community Plan L.O.C.U.S Training**

Our next L.O.C.U.S. Training will held be in Baton Rouge, LA

When: TBD

Where: TBD

To register please contact Kendell Andrus at training_bhnetwork@uhc.com

- **LA Cultural Competency Training for Behavioral Health Providers**

The next Cultural Competency Training will held be in New Orleans, LA

When: TBD

Where: TBD

To register please contact Kendell Andrus at training_bhnetwork@uhc.com

Louisiana Provider Services Line
866.675.1607