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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
SERVICES BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE

June 24th, 2022

EFFECTIVE DATE:

June 24th, 2022

NUMBER:

OMHSAS-22 -03

SUBJECT:

UPDATED: Provision of One-to-One Intensive Behavioral Health Services in a Licensed Location

BY:

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Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) agencies that are enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and want to provide one-to-one individual services or Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in a licensed IBHS location to MA beneficiaries.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the provision of one-to-one individual services or ABA services in a licensed IBHS location.

BACKGROUND:

On October 19, 2019, the Department of Human Services (Department) promulgated 55 Pa Code Chapters 1155 and 5240, which codified the minimum standards for licensing and MA payment conditions for agencies that deliver IBHS to children, youth and young adults under 21 years of age with mental, emotional and behavioral health needs. The regulations replaced the requirements for Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) previously set forth in bulletins issued by the Department. IBHS includes individual services, ABA services, group services, and evidence-based therapy delivered through individual services, ABA services or group services.

The IBHS regulations specify that IBHS may be delivered in home or community-based, clinically appropriate settings, as identified in the written order and individual treatment plan and that group services may also be delivered in a community like setting. 55 Pa. Code § 5240.23(c).

On January 22, 2021 OMHSAS issued OMHSAS-21- 02, Provision of One-to-One Intensive Behavioral Health Services in a Licensed Location, to clarify whether individual services or ABA services provided by a clinician to one child, youth, or young adult can be provided at a licensed IBHS agency's location if services in that location will be clinically appropriate and meet the unique needs of the child, youth or young adult. These services are referred to as

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. General Office Number: 717-705-8289.

one-to-one individual services or ABA services. When one-to-one individual services or ABA services are provided at a provider's location they are sometimes referred to as center-based services. OMHSAS-21-02 also instructed IBHS agencies that wished to provide one-to-one individual services or ABA services at the IBHS agency's location to either address these services in their service description or if already licensed, submit an addendum to their service descriptions.

OMHSAS is updating OMHSAS-21-02 to remove the reference to service description addendums. Providers that want to provide individual services or ABA services at a center should address these services in their initial service description or in an updated service description, see 55 Pa Code § 5240.5. OMHSAS is also updating OMHSAS-21-02 to remind providers that regardless of where services are provided assessments should be conducted across the home, school, and community environments to best inform treatment and to clarify for how long it is clinically appropriate to provide center-based services.

DISCUSSION:

IBHS is used to support the behavioral health needs of children, youth and young adults in the natural environments where they live, learn and play. The environment where individual services, ABA services, or group services is delivered should be the least restrictive environment where a child, youth or young adult can reasonably be expected to achieve success.

In some instances, the provision of one-to-one individual services or ABA services in a child's, youth's, or young adult's natural environment will not meet the child's, youth's or young adult's behavioral health needs. In such instances, it may be clinically appropriate to provide medically necessary individual services or ABA services at a provider's licensed location. Because these are services that are being provided to children, youth or young adults, the areas in the provider location where services are being provided should be age and developmentally appropriate and community like. A community like setting is a setting that simulates a natural and normal setting for a child, youth or young adult. One-to-one individual services and ABA services at a center should focus on building a child's, youth's, or young adult's functional skills so that services can be provided in-home and community settings once the child, youth or young adult has the functional skills needed to receive services in home and community settings. Even if services will be provided at a center, the assessment should be conducted in the child's, youth's or young adult's natural environment so that the child's, youth's or young adult's strengths and needs across home, school and community settings can be documented and the assessment can be used to build a treatment plan that is responsive to the needs of each child, youth, or young adult in the home, school and community.

PROCEDURE:

Providers who want to provide one-to-one individual services or ABA services at a center must include the information identified in Attachment A in their IBHS service description.

OBSOLETE BULLETIN:

OMHSAS-21- 02, Provision of One-to-One Intensive Behavioral Health Services in a Licensed Location

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Additional Information for Service Descriptions for IBHS Agencies That Intend to Provide One-to-One Services in a Center

OMHSAS-22-03 Attachment A:

Additional Information for Service Descriptions for Intensive Behavioral Health Service (IBHS) Agencies That Intend to Provide One-to-One Services in a Center

The below information should be included in the IBHS agency's service description if the IBHS agency wants to provide one-to-one individual services or Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in a licensed IBHS location.

1. Location of Center
2. Describe the target population served. At a minimum include:
 - a. Age range of population to be served
 - b. Developmental needs of population to be served
 - c. Presenting issues, which may include specific diagnoses
 - d. Admission criteria, including the clinical rationale for providing center-based services
 - e. Description of how treatment needs will be met outside of the center
 - f. Exclusionary criteria
3. Describe the services that will be provided. At a minimum include:
 - a. The type of one-to-one services that will be provided (individual services, and/or ABA services)
 - b. Opportunities for interaction with peers
 - c. Types of interventions that will be used
 - d. How treatment goals and interventions will be generalized to the home and community
 - e. Description of a typical daily treatment session for a child, youth, or young adult, including
 - i. Hours the child, youth or young adult will be receiving services at the center
 - ii. Amount of time spent on each program, activity or intervention, including any group activities
 - iii. Time spent in non-treatment activities such as naps

Note: Please submit a sample schedule for each one-to-one program offered in the center (early childhood, school-age, etc.)



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4. Describe how families and caregivers will be involved with the services provided.
At a minimum include:
 - a. Family and caregiver involvement in the assessment process in the child's, youth's or young adult's natural environment
 - b. Family and caregiver training on individual treatment plan goals and interventions to be used in the home and community
 - c. Family and caregiver involvement with transition planning from provision of services in a center to the child's, youth's, or young adult's natural environment

5. Describe how a child's, youth's or young adult's progress will be monitored across settings and how it will be determined when the one-to-one center-based services should transition to services in the child's, youth's or young adult's home and community or to group services.