

To: Behavioral Health Partners

From: John McCarthy, Director, Office of Medical Assistance  
Tracy J. Plouck, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health

Date: January 30, 2013

Re: Community Behavioral Health Medicaid Updates

The purpose of this memo is to provide important information related to the status of several community Medicaid projects. If you have any questions on the items in this memo, feel free to contact Angie Bergefurd, Assistant Deputy Director of Health Integration at [medicaid@mh.ohio.gov](mailto:medicaid@mh.ohio.gov) or 614-387-2799.

### **ACT & IHBT**

The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) convened a group of stakeholders to review the revised certification standards and submitted draft rules for both Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT) for review through the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office. Subsequent to the initial CSI review, the stakeholder group, along with clinical expertise and department staff, agreed that additional changes to both the ACT and IHBT rule were necessary to support the quality of each service. This requires the department to resubmit the rules for additional review by the CSI office. ODMH is in the process of developing revised language based on the groups' recommendations and will be resubmitting revised rules to the CSI office. We anticipate that the new target date for the rules to be effective will be on or around June 1, 2013.

Separately from the rule process, the ODMH has also worked with stakeholders to assure that ACT and IHBT are coordinated from a Medicaid perspective with other services and programs such as health homes and other existing community Medicaid services. This work includes building business requirements for MITS to ensure claims for health home, ACT and IBHT services are processing and paying appropriately. The department is also currently reviewing provider cost information and claims data to support the development of a reimbursement methodology and rate for each service. We anticipate much of this work to be completed by the end of the state fiscal year (June 30, 2013).

### **Family Therapy/Counseling**

ODMH has explored several options related to Medicaid coverage of family therapy/counseling when provided by CMHCs. At this point, the department is analyzing whether or not the services can be provided under the current Ohio

Administrative Code rules, including current MH certification standards as well as the OMA MH services Medicaid coverage and reimbursement rules. As we continue work with OMA and as the merger of ODADAS and ODMH is finalized, additional policy guidance will be issued and/or a target Medicaid coverage date will be established.

### **Peer Support**

To increase availability of information to consumers with mental illness and/or addictions, ODMH and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) partnered with Ohio Empowerment Coalition and the Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment to apply for a Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) SAMHSA award to expand peer-provided services. Peer-provided services will be increased as a result of this project.

ODMH and ODADAS have developed strategies for including peer-provided services in current initiatives such as health homes. In addition, peer support specialists who meet current certification requirements may also provide CPST under the community mental health Medicaid program and will be able to provide the CPST components of ACT and IHBT when Medicaid coverage is available. Similar to family therapy/counseling, additional policy guidance will be issued and/or a target Medicaid coverage date will be established in the future.

### **Behavioral Health Services in Nursing Facilities**

The Office of Medical Assistance has offered for clearance revisions to OAC 5101:3-3-01 and 5101:3-3-19. These rules clarify the payment policy for the provision of behavioral and mental health services for residents of nursing facilities. The rules are open for comment until February 1, 2013 and can be accessed on the web as Clearance 7191 at the following link:

<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/clearances/public/index.aspx>.

CC: Greg Moody, Director, Office of Health Transformation