



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-2309

February 3, 2004

DMH LETTER NO.: 04-02

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON FOURTH MENTAL
HEALTH PLAN PAYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR
THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

REFERENCE DMH Information Notice No. 02-08

Effective September 1, 2003, mental health plans (MHPs) are required to submit information to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and to the MHP's mental health director regarding the MHP's decision to approve a fourth MHP payment authorization for therapeutic behavioral services (TBS). This requirement is included in the DMH/MHP contract, Exhibit A, Attachment 1, Section Z.3.f. (Section EE.3.f for San Mateo) and provides:

When the Contractor approves a fourth MHP payment authorization request for a beneficiary, the Contractor shall provide a summary of the TBS services provided, justification for the additional authorization and a termination plan with clearly established timelines and benchmarks, including a planned date for termination of TBS, in writing to the Mental Health Director for the Contractor and to the Deputy Director, Systems of Care, Department of Mental Health, within five working days of the authorization decision.

DMH began receiving the required information in September 2003 and has identified a possible misunderstanding of the requirement. Please note that the information is to be submitted after the MHP has reviewed the provider's MHP payment authorization request and determined that continuation of TBS is appropriate. Information may not be submitted to DMH prior to the MHP's decision to approve the fourth authorization request. DMH will not be making decisions on the requests from the MHP's providers for MHP payment authorization of TBS. DMH will use the submitted information to establish that the MHP is

following the requirements of DMH Letter No. 99-03 and the terms of the DMH/MHP contract regarding TBS and to provide technical assistance if a problem is identified.

The submission requirement does not limit the number of MHP payment authorizations that may be approved for TBS. MHP payment authorizations for TBS must continue to be approved as long as TBS continues to be necessary for the eligible beneficiary under the conditions described in DMH Letter No. 99-03 and the MHP/DMH contract. MHPs are not required to submit information to DMH or to their mental health director for approved MHP payment authorizations subsequent to the fourth authorization.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your Medi-Cal contract manager in the County Operations Sections below.

DMH County Operations Medi-Cal Contract Managers

Bay Region

Ruth Walz (Regional Lead) (707) 252-3168
Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano

Douglas Mudgett (916) 654-3623
Marin, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma

Peter Best (916) 657-3487
Alameda, Monterey, Napa, San Benito

Northern Region

Kathleen Carter (Interim) (916) 651-6613
Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity

Kathleen Carter (916) 651-6613
Del Norte, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Nevada, Sierra

Stacy Hoang (916) 654-4016
Glenn, Humboldt, Tehama

Jacqui Naud (916) 654-2996
Butte, Colusa

Central Region

Vivian Lee (Regional Lead) (916) 651-6281
Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Sacramento, Kings, San Joaquin, Tulare, Tuolumne

Lori Hokerson (916) 651-6296
Amador, El Dorado, Merced, Placer, Stanislaus, Sutter-Yuba, Yolo

Joseph Kim (916) 651-6339
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Southern Region

Eddie Gabriel (Regional Lead) (916) 654-3263
Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura

Linda Brophy (916) 654-7357
Imperial, San Luis Obispo

Troy Konarski (916) 654-2643
Kern, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director

cc: California Mental Health Planning Council
Chief, County Operations, South and Central Regions
Chief, County Operations, North and Bay Regions