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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 11, 2022

Sent via e-mail to: skennelly@buttecounty.net

Scott Kennelly, Director
Butte County Department of Behavioral Health
3217 Cohasset Road
Chico, CA 95973

SUBJECT: Annual DMC State Plan County Compliance Unit Findings Report

Dear Director Kennelly:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is responsible for monitoring compliance to requirements of the State Plan Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Contract operated by Butte County.

The County Compliance Unit (CCU) within the Audits and Investigations Division (A&I) of DHCS conducted a review of the County's compliance with contract requirements based on responses to the monitoring instrument, discussion with county staff, and supporting documentation provided by the County.

Enclosed are the results of Butte County's State Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Plan DMC Contract compliance review. The report identifies deficiencies, required corrective actions, advisory recommendations, and referrals for technical assistance.

Butte County is required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) addressing each deficiency noted to the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division (MCBHD), Plan and Network Monitoring Branch (PNMB), County/Provider Operations and Monitoring Branch (CPOMB) liaison by 6/13/2022. Please use the enclosed CAP form and submit the completed CAP and supporting documentation via email to the CPOMB analyst at MCBHDMonitoring@dhcs.ca.gov.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at becky.counter@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Becky Counter
(916) 713-8567

Audits and Investigations Division
Medical Review Branch
Behavioral Health Compliance Section
County Compliance Unit
1500 Capitol Ave., MS 2305
Sacramento, CA 95814
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov>

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MCBHDMonitoring@dhcs.ca.gov, County Provider Operations and Monitoring Branch
Jennifer Stofa, Butte County Behavioral Health Assistant Director

COUNTY REVIEW INFORMATION

County:

Butte

County Contact Name/Title:

Jennifer Stofa/Behavioral Health Assistant Director

County Address:

3217 Cohasset Road
Chico, CA 95973.

County Phone Number/Email:

(530) 891-2850
jstofa@buttecounty.net

Date of Review:

2/16/2022

Lead CCU Analyst:

Becky Counter

Assisting CCU Analyst:

N/A

Report Prepared by:

Becky Counter

Report Approved by:

Ayesha Smith

REVIEW SCOPE

- I. Regulations:
 - a. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, section 51341.1, 51490.1 and 51516.1 – Drug Medi-Cal Substance Use Disorder Services
 - b. California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Division 4: Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
 - c. Health and Safety Code, Division 10.5, Section 11750 – 11970: Alcohol and Drug Programs
 - d. Welfare and Institutions Code, Division 9, Part 3, Chapter 7, Sections 14021.51-14021.53 and 14124.20-14124.25: Basic Health Care – Drug Medi-Cal Treatment Program

- II. Program Requirements:
 - a. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 State-County Contract, herein referred to as State County Contract
 - b. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 State-County Contract, herein referred to as State County Contract
 - c. Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Services (MHSUDS) Information Notices
 - d. Behavioral Health Information Notices (BHIN)

ENTRANCE AND EXIT CONFERENCE SUMMARIES

Entrance Conference:

An Entrance Conference was conducted via WebEx on 2/16/2022. The following individuals were present:

- Representing DHCS:
Becky Counter, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)
Michael Ulibarri, Staff Services Manager I (SSMI)
- Representing Butte County:
Scott Kennelly, Director
Jennifer Stofa, Assistant Director
Jacob Read, Program Manager, SUD
Danelle Campbell, Program Manager, Prevention
Madeline Irving, Interim Program Manager
Alyssa Reilley, Interim QA Coordinator
Heather Claibourn, QI Coordinator
Emily Swearingen, Behavioral Health Counselor

During the Entrance Conference, the following topics were discussed:

- Introductions
- Overview of the monitoring process
- Butte County overview of services

Exit Conference:

An Exit Conference was conducted via WebEx on 2/16/2022. The following individuals were present:

- Representing DHCS:
Becky Counter, AGPA
Michael Ulibarri, SSMI
- Representing Butte County:
Jennifer Stofa, Assistant Director
Jacob Read, Program Manager, SUD
Madeline Irving, Interim Program Manager

During the Exit Conference, the following topics were discussed:

- Submitting follow-up evidence
- Due date for evidence submission

SUMMARY OF FY 2021-22 COMPLIANCE DEFICIENCIES (CD)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Number of CD's</u>
1.0 Administration	0
2.0 Covered Services	0
3.0 DMC Certification & Continued Certification	0
4.0 Monitoring	2
5.0 General Provisions	1

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Pursuant to the State County Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment I A1, Part I, Section 4, B, 6 a-b each CD identified must be addressed via a CAP. The CAP is due within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of this monitoring report.

Please provide the following within the completed FY 2021- 22 CAP:

- a) A statement of the CD.
- b) A list of action steps to be taken to correct the CD.
- c) A date of completion for each CD.
- d) Who will be responsible for correction and ongoing compliance.

The CPOMB analyst will monitor progress of the CAP completion.

Category 4: MONITORING

A review of the County's monitoring and program integrity was conducted to ensure compliance with applicable regulations, and standards. The following DMC deficiencies in regulations, standards or protocol requirements were identified:

COMPLIANCE DEFICIENCIES:

CD 4.1:

State Plan DMC Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment I A1, Part I, Section 1, B

B. It is further agreed this Contract is controlled by applicable provisions of: (a) the W&I Code, Division 9, Part 3, Chapter 7, Sections 14000, *et seq.*, in particular, but not limited to, Sections 14100.2, 14021, 14021.5, 14021.6, and Article 1.3, Sections 14043, *et seq.*, (b) Title 22, including but not limited to Sections 51490.1, 51341.1 and 51516.1; and (c) Division 4 of Title 9 of the California Code Regulations (hereinafter referred to as Title 9).

22 CCR § 51341.1 (b) (28) (A) (i) (f) (iii)

(A) For outpatient drug free, day care habilitative, perinatal residential and naltrexone treatment services programs the following shall apply:

- (i) The substance use disorder medical director's responsibilities shall at a minimum include all of the following
- (f) Ensure that provider's physicians are adequately trained to perform diagnosis of substance use disorders for beneficiaries, determine the medical necessity of treatment for beneficiaries and perform other physician duties, as outlined in this section.
- (iii) A substance use disorder medical director shall receive a minimum of five (5) hours of continuing medical education in addiction medicine each year.

Findings: The County did not provide evidence demonstrating the subcontractor's Medical Director received the annual five (5) hours of continuing medical education in addiction medicine. Specifically:

- The County did not provide evidence of continuing medical education for Aegis's Medical Director for calendar year 2020.

The County did not provide evidence demonstrating the subcontractor's Medical Director received the annual five (5) hours of continuing medical education in addiction medicine. Specifically:

- The County did not provide evidence of continuing medical education for Progress House's Medical Director for calendar year 2020.

CD 4.3:

State Plan DMC Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment I A1, Part I, Section 3, A, 4, c

4. Contractor shall require all the subcontracted providers of services to be licensed, registered, DMC certified and/or approved in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Contractor's subcontracts shall require that providers comply with the following regulations and guidelines:

c) Minimum Quality Treatment Standards, (Document 2F(a))

Compliance with the following Minimum Quality Treatment Standards is required in addition to CCR Title 9 and 22 regulations for all SUD treatment programs either partially or fully funded through DMC. If conflict between regulations and standards occurs, the most restrictive shall apply.

Document 2F(a), A, 5

A. Personnel Policies

5. Written roles and responsibilities and a code of conduct for the medical director shall be clearly documented, signed and dated by a program representative and physician.

22 CCR § 51341.1 (b) (28) (A) (i) (a)-(f)

A. For outpatient drug free, day care habilitative, perinatal residential and naltrexone treatment services programs the following shall apply:

- (i) The substance use disorder medical director's responsibilities shall at a minimum include all of the following:
 - (a) Ensure that medical care provided by physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants meets the applicable standard of care.
 - (b) Ensure that physicians do not delegate their duties to nonphysician personnel.
 - (c) Develop and implement medical policies and standards for the provider.
 - (d) Ensure that physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants follow the provider's medical policies and standards.
 - (e) Ensure that the medical decisions made by physicians are not influenced by fiscal considerations.
 - (f) Ensure that provider's physicians are adequately trained to perform diagnosis of substance use disorders for beneficiaries, determine the medical necessity of treatment for beneficiaries and perform other physician duties, as outlined in this section.

Finding: The County did not provide evidence demonstrating the written roles and responsibilities for Progress House's Medical Director, Dr. Nerz, includes all required elements. The following required elements are missing, specifically:

- Ensure that medical care provided by physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants meets the applicable standard of care;
- Ensure that physicians do not delegate their duties to non-physician personnel;
- Develop and implement medical policies and standards for the provider;
- Ensure that physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants follow the provider's medical policies and standards;
- Ensure that the medical decisions made by physicians are not influenced by fiscal considerations; and
- Ensure that provider's physicians are adequately trained to perform other physician duties.

The County did not provide evidence demonstrating the written roles and responsibilities for Aegis's Medical Director, Dr. Brian Talleur, includes all required elements. The following required elements are missing, specifically:

- Ensure that medical care provided by physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants meets the applicable standard of care;
- Ensure that physicians do not delegate their duties to non-physician personnel;
- Ensure that physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants follow the provider's medical policies and standards;
- Ensure that the medical decisions made by physicians are not influenced by fiscal considerations; and
- Ensure that provider's physicians are adequately trained to perform other physician duties.

Category 5: GENERAL PROVISIONS

A review of the County's contract general provisions was conducted to ensure compliance with applicable regulations, and standards. The following DMC deficiency in regulations, standards or protocol requirements was identified:

COMPLIANCE DEFICIENCY:

CD 5.4:

State Plan DMC Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment I A1, Part II, H

H. Tribal Communities and Organizations

The Contractor shall regularly assess (e.g. review population information available through Census Bureau, compare to information obtained in CalOMS Treatment to determine whether population is being reached, survey Tribal representatives for insight in potential barriers) the substance use service needs of the American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) population within the Contractor's geographic area and shall engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with elected officials of the tribe, Rancheria, or their designee for the purpose of identifying issues/barriers to service delivery and improvement of the quality, effectiveness, and accessibility of services available to AI/AN communities within the County.

Exhibit A, Attachment I, Part II, Q

Q. Subcontract Provisions

Contractor shall include the foregoing Part II general provisions in all of its subcontracts.

Findings: The County did not provide evidence demonstrating all of the foregoing State County Contract Exhibit A, Attachment I, Part II general provisions are included in all executed subcontracts, including the Tribal Communities and Organizations provision.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Butte County did not request technical assistance for FY 21-22.