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North Sound Behavioral Health Organization

Section 1500 – Clinical: State and Substance Abuse Block Grant Funding Plan – Behavioral Health Services

Authorizing Source: SMH Contract; North Sound BHO

Cancels:

See Also:

Providers must comply with this policy and may develop individualized implementation guidelines as needed

Responsible Staff: Deputy Director

Approved by: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 8/19/2016

POLICY 1574.00

SUBJECT: STATE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING PLAN – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

PURPOSE

To identify the individuals eligible for and services covered by State and Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) funds in the North Sound region. For individuals eligible for services covered by State and SABG funds and within available resources, this policy is also meant to ensure consistent application of standards region-wide for access to medically necessary behavioral health services.

DEFINITIONS

Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Women with Dependent Children (PPW) include women who are:

- A. Pregnant;
- B. Postpartum during the first year after pregnancy completion regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy or placement of children;
- C. Parenting children under the age of six, including those attempting to gain custody of children supervised by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Individual Using Intravenous Drugs (IUID) means an individual who has used a needle to illicitly inject drugs one or more times.

Youth for the purposes of this policy includes individuals 17 years of age and younger.

POLICY

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (North Sound BHO) utilizes State and SABG funds, as long as available, to provide services to specific populations of individuals, as well as, pay for certain programs and services. The use of these funds may be revised as funding availability changes. Any changes to these categories shall be effective immediately upon written notification.

Individuals financially eligible for State or SABG funded services must not have insurance coverage for services, must be ineligible for Medicaid and must be below 220% of federal poverty guidelines.

State and SABG funds payment by North Sound BHO for individuals receiving medically necessary State Plan services shall be considered payment in full as long as they meet income qualifications, per State guidelines and this policy and do not have third party resources. Individuals, who do not meet State and SABG funding qualifications because they are above the income limits, shall be responsible for the cost of care and treatment.

Additionally, payments of State and SABG funds for individuals on a spenddown shall be considered qualifying medical expenses that have been paid on behalf of the individual by a publicly administered program per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 182-519-0110(9). The Behavioral Health Agency (BHA) shall work with individuals to apply for Washington Apple Health and/or meet their spenddowns. For individuals who are not eligible for Washington Apple Health, consideration shall be given to transitioning them to other programs/services.

North Sound BHO funds a variety of outpatient, residential and inpatient mental health and substance use services with State and SABG funds.

North Sound BHO utilizes State funds for the following mental health services:

- A. Access and authorization;
- B. Court filing fees;
- C. Crisis Services;
- D. Evaluation & Treatment Facilities (E&Ts) including out of region E&T costs;
- E. Flex Funds;
- F. Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitalization costs;
- G. Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Services;
- H. Jail Services;
- I. Medicaid Personal Care (MPC);
- J. North Sound BHO administrative operations;
- K. Ombuds Services;
- L. Out-of-Network Services;
- M. State Plan Outpatient Services to identified populations (see Procedure section below);
- N. Peer Centers; and
- O. Residential Room and Board costs.

North Sound BHO shall allocate a proportionate and fixed amount of State funds for mental health services to each BHA providing mental health services on an annual basis to provide State Plan outpatient services to individuals identified in this policy as meeting priority for these funds. Each BHA is responsible for management of their allotted funds. If providers exceed their allotted amount, they run the risk of not receiving payment for services provided.

For substance use, State funds are utilized for the following:

- A. Access and authorization;
- B. Crisis Services;
- C. Family hardship funds;
- D. Facility replacement;

- E. Flex funds;
- F. ITA;
- G. North Sound BHO administrative operations;
- H. Opioid Dependency Outreach;
 - I. 24-hour VOA Crisis Line;
- J. Outpatient Services – children and adults for priority populations:
 - 1. PPW;
 - 2. IUID; or
 - 3. Youth not covered by insurance.
- K. Therapeutic interventions for children residing with their mothers in residential treatment;
- L. Residential in an IMD for individuals who do not have Medicaid;
- M. Residential room and board;
- N. Transportation to and from residential treatment;
- O. Withdrawal management.

Acute and Sub-acute

In addition to State funds, North Sound BHO utilizes SABG funds for the following substance use services:

- A. Crisis Services;
- B. Opioid Dependency Outreach;
- C. Outpatient Services – children and adults for priority populations;
 - 1. PPW;
 - 2. IUID; or
 - 3. Youth not covered by insurance.
- D. Therapeutic interventions for children residing with their mothers in residential treatment;
- E. Residential in an IMD for individuals who do not have Medicaid;
- F. Transportation to and from residential treatment;
- G. Withdrawal management.

Acute and Sub-acute

State and SABG funds utilized for substance use services shall remain in a regional fund and be paid by North Sound BHO as substance use services are delivered by BHAs.

PROCEDURE

State Plan Outpatient Services – Mental Health

The following populations of individuals are eligible for medically necessary, State Plan outpatient mental health services under State funding.

- A. Individuals making a request for North Sound BHO initial authorization or reauthorization and individuals in a current North Sound BHO authorization period, regardless of North Sound BHO outpatient episode status, who are:
 - 1. Discharging, or discharged within the past 30 days, from a Children’s Long-Term Inpatient Program (CLIP) facility or Western State Hospital (WSH).
 - 2. Currently on a Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) court order or Conditional Release (CR).

BHAs contracted for mental health services shall serve the individuals identified in this section (A 1-2). It is North Sound BHO’s expectation that State funds are prioritized for these individuals and that there are enough available resources to serve all individuals who meet one or both criteria. For initial and reauthorizations, North Sound BHO shall provide authorization for a period not to exceed three (3) months*. For individuals in a current authorization, North Sound BHO shall allow for continuation of the current authorization for a period not to exceed three (3) months*.

- B. Individuals with a current North Sound BHO authorization and in a current North Sound BHO outpatient episode who:
 - 1. Are funded by Washington Apple Health, but currently subject to a spenddown from DSHS.
 - 2. Lose eligibility for Washington Apple Health coverage, are not eligible for any other coverage, meet income guidelines and do not fit any of the previously identified categories.

For individuals identified in this section (B 1-2), North Sound BHO shall allow for continuation of the current authorization for a period not to exceed 3 months from when Washington Apple Health is not active or end of the current authorization period, whichever is sooner*. Due to limited funding, individuals identified in this section are not eligible for initial authorization of outpatient services unless they qualify on some other basis. See below regarding the reauthorization process.

State Plan Outpatient Services – Substance Use

The following populations of individuals are eligible for medically necessary, State Plan outpatient and residential substance use services under State or SABG funding.

- A. Individuals making a request for North Sound BHO initial authorization or reauthorization and individuals in a current North Sound BHO authorization period, regardless of North Sound BHO outpatient episode status, who meet criteria for:

1. PPW;
 2. IUID;
 3. Youth without insurance.
- B. Individuals with a current North Sound BHO authorization and in a current North Sound BHO outpatient episode who:
1. Are funded by Washington Apple Health, but currently subject to a spenddown from DSHS.
 2. Lose eligibility for Washington Apple Health coverage, are not eligible for any other coverage, meet income guidelines and do not fit any of the previously identified categories.

For individuals identified in this section (B 1-2), North Sound BHO shall allow for continuation of the current authorization for a period not to exceed three (3) months from when Washington Apple Health is not active or end of the current authorization period, whichever is sooner*. Due to limited funding, individuals identified in this section are not eligible for initial authorization of outpatient services unless they qualify on some other basis. See below regarding the reauthorization process.

Continued Services/Reauthorization

- A. North Sound BHO shall authorize eligible individuals for medically necessary, State or SABG-funded services for a period not to exceed three (3) months per reauthorization*.
- B. The determination whether to continue services or request reauthorization for an individual covered by State funding is the responsibility of the BHA to be made in the context of medical necessity and availability of resources with the exception of individuals currently meeting one or both of the criteria in State Plan Outpatient Services – Mental Health, Section A above; a reauthorization is expected for these individuals.

Examples of when it may be appropriate to continue services or request reauthorization may include, but not be limited to:

1. Individual at imminent risk of psychiatric hospitalization, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) residential or withdrawal management.
2. Individual on a complex psychotropic medication regimen (MH) or medication assisted treatment (SUD) for which no prescriber outside the BHA can be located.
3. Individual improving in intensive services, but who needs time to transition into a lower level of care prior to discharge from treatment.

***Re/Authorization Limit Exceptions**

- A. Providers may determine there are exceptional cases for which they want an authorization period longer than three (3) months. This determination is left to the provider, but the rationale for the exception must be noted in the electronic authorization request in order for North Sound BHO to provide authorization for a period longer than three (3) months.
- B. For individuals who become State-funded during their authorization period, it is the responsibility of the BHA to request termination of the authorization from North Sound BHO

when the individual is no longer eligible for State funds per North Sound BHO policy. For termination of an authorization, see the Change in Mental Health Coverage (Loss of Coverage/Change in Payer) section of North Sound BHO Policy 1505.00 – Authorization for Ongoing Outpatient Services.

Transfers and Coordination of Care

For State-funded individuals where transfer or coordination of care with another BHA is requested by the individual or appears clinically appropriate, the BHA clinician shall follow North Sound BHO Policy 1510. In addition, prior to transfer or coordination, the first BHA shall:

- A. Have assisted the individual in attempting to obtain Washington Apple Health prior to transfer or coordination of care whenever possible.
- B. Give consideration to the length of the remaining authorization and need for continued services prior to initiating a transfer or coordination of care.

ATTACHMENTS

None