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North Sound Mental Health Administration

Section 1500 – Clinical: Roads to Community Living (RCL)

Authorizing Source: WAC 388-106, DSHS/NSMHA RCL Contract

Cancels:

See Also:

Responsible Staff: Deputy Director

Approved by: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 6/30/2015

POLICY #1581.00

SUBJECT: ROADS TO COMMUNITY LIVING (RCL)

PURPOSE

To provide guidance on accessing RCL funds for community-based services/supports which help individuals meet their treatment goals when discharging from qualified institutional settings back into the community.

DEFINITIONS

RCL – is a mix of federal and state funds provided to Medicaid eligible individuals discharging from qualified institutional settings. These funds are designed to fund services/supports to ameliorate symptoms, prevent the need for future hospitalizations and/or residential treatment and are not funded by any other system or resource.

Qualified Institutional Setting – Children’s Long-Term Inpatient Program (CLIP – youth under age 18), state psychiatric hospital, nursing home, or residential habilitation center.

Qualified Community Setting – home, apartment, licensed residential setting with four (4) or less unrelated individuals.

POLICY

The North Sound Mental Health Administration (NSMHA) will authorize RCL for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria and have identified, qualifying unmet needs stated in the transition care plan, not otherwise provided by Medicaid or a more appropriate system/provider.

PROCEDURE

Eligibility Criteria

RCL funding may be accessed while the individual is in a qualified institutional setting provided the eligibility criteria are met. From the date of discharge, the benefit period for each individual is a maximum of 365 days beginning the date of discharge into a qualified community setting. No extensions shall be granted for RCL funding.

In order to be eligible to access RCL funding, individuals:

- I. Must be under age 21 or over age 65.
- II. Must be residing in a qualified institutional setting, receiving services for more than 90 consecutive days and are not admitted for the sole purpose of short-term rehabilitative services.

- III. Must be receiving Medicaid benefits for services in a qualified institutional setting for at least one (1) day prior to transitioning into the community.
- IV. Must sign the Participation Form (available at <http://nsmha.org/Forms/index.asp>) prior to the date of discharge from a qualified institutional setting and be preauthorized to participate in the program by the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) RCL Administrator.

Process

- I. Qualified institution will fill out the provided NSMHA request for RCL funding form, outlining the needs to be supported by RCL. NSMHA care coordinator and outpatient providers will work with facilities and families to help identify the appropriate resources in the family's local community.
- II. Individual, and where appropriate the legal guardian, shall consent to participate in the RCL program by signing the Participation Form prior to the date of discharge from a qualified institutional setting. The signed Participation Form must be sent to NSMHA care coordinator prior to the discharge date.
- III. NSMHA care coordinator will send the signed participation form to the appropriate DBHR RCL Administrator for pre-authorization.
- IV. NSMHA care coordinator will work with NSMHA contracts, NSMHA providers and the identified RCL community provider to develop a contract for the requested services. A copy will be sent to the fiscal department in order to facilitate payment.
- V. NSMHA care coordinator will review deliverables from the contracted RCL providers.

Transition Planning

From the date of discharge, the benefit period for each individual is a maximum of 365 days beginning the date of discharge into a qualified community setting. No extensions shall be granted for RCL funding.

- I. The benefit period will end for the follow reasons:
 - A. 365 days have been completed;
 - B. Individual returns to an institutional setting for longer than 30 days. In this case, an individual may reapply when discharging from the qualified institutional setting after the 90 consecutive day mark has been satisfied;
 - C. Individual moves out of state;
 - D. Individual no longer wants the service; or
 - E. Individual passes away.

If the individual is dis-enrolled from RCL for any reason during the contract period, the Disenrollment Form shall be completed and turned into the DBHR RCL Administrator.

Prior to the end of the benefit period, RCL contracted provider shall collaborate with other community providers (e.g. NSMHA providers) to develop and implement a sustainable discharge plan that continues to address the identified needs.

- II. The Transition Plan shall include at least:

- A. The services/supports provided by RCL funding are stable and sustainable after the end of the benefit period.
- B. RCL service provider, in conjunction with other community providers, will ensure the individual is residing in stable sustainable housing and have the necessary supports in place to continue placement in the community.
- C. If an individual is enrolled with NSMHA provider, NSMHA provider will coordinate with RCL contracted provider to ensure the individual has all the necessary supports in place to continue placement in the community

ATTACHMENTS

None