



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Provider Bulletin
Number PR016

Subject: DMH Community Support Specialist Standards and Requirements for DMH Professional Licensure and Certification

Issue Date: January 3, 2013

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Scope

All DMH Certified Providers

Purpose

To notify providers that the DMH Community Support Specialist Standards & Requirements document is replacing the existing (January 1, 2011) DMH Case Management Professional Standards & Requirements document.

Background

The existing (January 1, 2011) DMH Case Management Professional Standards & Requirements document was recently amended. The primary reason for the amendment was to change the name of the credentialing program, and related terminology, from “DMH Case Management Professional” to “DMH Community Support Specialist.” Additionally, the document has also been reformatted to be in compliance with the Secretary of State-approved format, as outlined in the MS Administrative Procedures Act.

Subject

General Information:

- **Updated application forms are included in the DMH Community Support Specialist Standards & Requirements.**
- The new DMH Community Support Specialist Standards & Requirements document will be made available on the “PLACE” page of the DMH website in early January 2013.
- Beginning January 1, 2013, individuals wishing to apply for the DMH Community Support Specialist credential should use the new (Community Support Specialist) application forms. However, for convenience during the transition, the Case Management Professional application forms will continue to be accepted by the DMH Division of PLACE through March 29, 2013. After this date, individuals who submit the outdated Case Management Professional application forms will be required to submit the new, updated Community Support Specialist application forms.

- Beginning January 1, 2013, all affected persons (e.g., individuals who currently hold a DMH Case Management Professional credential, individuals who are currently in the process of making application for DMH Case Management Professional/DMH Community Support Specialist, and incoming, new DMH Community Support Specialist applicants) must comply with and are responsible for provisions contained in the most current version (i.e., January 1, 2013 version) of the *DMH Community Support Specialist Standards & Requirements* document.

Recognized Professional Titles:

1. DMH “Provisionally Certified Community Support Specialist” or the abbreviation “PCCSS” (*formerly “Provisionally Certified Case Management Professional – PCCMP”*);
2. DMH “Certified Community Support Specialist” or the abbreviation “CCSS” (*formerly “Certified Case Management Professional - CCMP” and “Certified Case Management Professional I – CCMP-I”*); and,
3. DMH “Certified Community Support Specialist II” or the abbreviation “CCSS-II” (*formerly “Certified Case Management Professional II - CCMP-II”*); (*this level of credentialing is no longer available to new applicants but is renewable for individuals who obtained this level of certification prior to its discontinuance, as long as renewal requirements are met.*)

Individuals who currently hold the DMH Case Management Professional credential:

- On January 1, 2013, individuals who currently hold the DMH Case Management Professional credential (as of December 31, 2012), will have their credential title changed from “DMH Case Management Professional” to “DMH Community Support Specialist”; this title change includes both provisionally-certified and fully-certified individuals; (refer to “Recognized Professional Titles” above for specific new titles).
- Individuals who currently hold the DMH Case Management Professional credential will not receive new wall certificates reflecting their new credential title; however, during the month of January 2013, they will receive a letter from the DMH Division of PLACE informing them of their credential title change. **In the meantime, please notify your employees who currently hold the DMH Case Management Professional credential of this title change, to become effective January 1, 2013.**
- During the next DMH Community Support Specialist renewal cycle (renewal cycle ending September 30, 2015), these individuals will receive a renewal document reflecting the updated “DMH Community Support Specialist” title.

Individuals who are credentialed in the DMH Community Support Specialist credentialing program on or after January 1, 2013:

- Individuals who are credentialed in the DMH Community Support Specialist credentialing program on or after January 1, 2013, will receive credential award letters and corresponding wall certificates with the “DMH Community Support Specialist” credential title appropriate to their level of certification.

Please share this information with your program Staff Development Officers (SDOs), Directors of Community Support Services, Directors of ID/DD Waiver Support Coordination and others at your program as you feel appropriate.

Please contact the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) Division of Professional Licensure & Certification (PLACE) if you have any questions (601-359-1288) or place@dmh.state.ms.us.

End of Provider Bulletin