



**Mississippi Department of Mental
Health
Provider Bulletin**

Number PR0112

Subject:

2020 DMH Operational Standards document – **Temporary** Amendment of Rule 19.4.A.2 – To allow provisionally licensed/credentialed therapists to serve on Mobile Crisis Response Teams

Issue Date: October 18, 2021

Effective Date: Immediately

Scope

DMH Certified Providers

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce a temporary amendment to Rule 19.4.A.2 of the 2020 DMH Operational Standards document.

This temporary amendment allows DMH-certified providers to utilize (for a time-limited period) their employees who hold an appropriate provisional license/credential to fill the therapist role on Mobile Crisis Response Teams.

A copy of this temporary amendment is attached. Providers can also access this document on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ms.gov.

This amendment is temporary and time limited. Providers should review this entire bulletin for important additional information.

Temporary Provision

Effective immediately through February 11, 2022, DMH-certified providers may utilize employees who hold an appropriate provisional license/credential to fill the therapist role on Mobile Crisis Response Teams.

Effective February 12, 2022, this temporary amendment is no longer in effect.

Prior to the end date of this temporary amendment of Rule 19.4.A.2 (i.e., February 11, 2022), DMH will evaluate the need to renew this provision for an additional 90-day period as well the possibility of making a permanent amendment to this rule. If DMH decides to extend the amendment beyond February 11, 2022, then DMH providers will be notified through issuance of a new Provider Bulletin.

Background

Over the past several months, DMH has had several providers request to be allowed to employ provisionally licensed or credentialed individuals for therapist positions on Mobile Crisis Response Teams. As DMH understands the concern, providers are experiencing high turnover rates and difficulties with recruiting and retaining employees for this therapist-level position.

Some DMH-certified providers have requested relief from the section of the current *DMH Operational Standards* document which excludes provisionally licensed/credentialed individuals from providing Mobile Crisis Response Team therapist services.

Parameters and Limitations

- Effective immediately through February 11, 2022, DMH-certified providers may utilize employees who hold an appropriate provisional license/credential to fill the therapist role on Mobile Crisis Response Teams.
- This temporary amendment does not exclude the stipulation in Rule 19.4.A.2 that the therapist on the Mobile Crisis Response Team is required to have “experience and training in crisis response.”
- This temporary amendment is time limited and expires on February 11, 2022. Prior to this date, DMH will evaluate the need to continue this provision.
- Third-party reimbursement disclaimer: DMH made the decision to exempt on a time-limited basis DMH-certified providers from the exclusionary language referenced above to provide a temporary measure of relief to providers which may be experiencing staffing shortages. However, this temporary exemption by DMH should, in no way, be construed as a guarantee of acceptance of reimbursement for provisionally licensed/credentialed staff serving in the therapist role on Mobile Crisis Response Teams by any outside third-party payer source such as the MS Division of Medicaid. Questions regarding third-party payer source reimbursement for the use of provisionally licensed/credentialed individuals in the therapist role on Mobile Crisis Response Teams during the stipulated time frame (now through February 11, 2022) should be directed to the MS Division of Medicaid or other applicable third party. Providers who choose to utilize provisionally licensed/credentialed individuals in the therapist role for Mobile Crisis Response Teams during the stipulated time frame and who want verification of reimbursement for use of applicable provisionally licensed/credentialed individuals in this capacity during this time frame should contact the appropriate third-party payer source for requests of this nature.
- DMH is unable to answer questions regarding third-party payer source reimbursement questions which may arise in relation to the temporary amendment outlined in this Provider Bulletin. Moreover, DMH does not assume responsibility for any third-party payer source reimbursement issues or related audit exceptions which providers may experience from their use of the temporary amendment outlined in this Provider Bulletin.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Stephanie Foster, Director of the DMH Bureau of Certification and Quality Outcomes, at stephanie.foster@dmh.ms.gov or (601) 359-4815.

End of Provider Bulletin

Title 24: Mental Health

Part 2: Operational Standards for Mental Health, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Community Service Providers

Part 2 Chapter 19: Crisis Services

Rule 19.4 Mobile Crisis Response Team Staffing Requirements

- A. Crisis Response Services must consist, at a minimum, of the following employees:
 - 1. A Certified Peer Support Specialist Professional with specific roles and responsibilities as a member of the team;
 - 2. A Licensed and/or Credentialed Master's Level Therapist with experience and training in crisis response;
 - 3. A Community Support Specialist with experience and training in crisis response;
 - 4. A Crisis Response Coordinator for the agency provider's catchment area. Coordinator must be a Licensed and/or Credentialed Master's Level Therapist with a minimum of two (2) years' experience and training in crisis response; and,
 - 5. At least one (1) employee must have experience and training in crisis response to each population served by the agency provider (MH, IDD, and/or SUD).

- B. There must be documentation that all employees assigned to Crisis Response Services are trained in the policies and procedures required for Pre-Evaluation Screening and Civil Commitment Examinations. Master's level employees must be certified to complete the Pre-Evaluation Screening for Civil Commitment.

Source: Section 41-4-7 of the *Mississippi Code, 1972, as amended*

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 2. A Licensed and/or Credentialed Master's Level Therapist with experience and training in crisis response (~~Provisionally Licensed and/or Credentialed Therapists are excluded~~);
 3. A Community Support Specialist with experience and training in crisis response;
 4. A Crisis Response Coordinator for the agency provider's catchment area. Coordinator must be a Licensed and/or Credentialed Master's Level Therapist with a minimum of two (2) years' experience and training in crisis response; and,
 5. At least one (1) employee must have experience and training in crisis response to each population served by the agency provider (MH, IDD, and/or SUD).
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