OMHSAS & MTFC

Accessing Medical Assistance Funding
Presented by the OMHSAS Children’s Bureau

Updated 4-2-2010
OVERVIEW

- Who are we?
- The treatment components of MTFC are a Program Exception for MA purposes:
  - What is a Program Exception?
  - What are the expectations for Program Exception providers?
  - What are the expectations for MA providers?
- How do we get the treatment pieces of an MTFC program covered by Medical Assistance?
- How will OMHSAS monitor MTFC programs in PA?
- How are CRR Host Homes and MTFC programs related?
Who are we?

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

8 Offices within DPW, including

- **Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services**
  - Bureau of Children’s Behavioral Health Services
  - Bureau of Financial Mgt.
  - Bureau of Community & Hospital Operations / Regional Field Offices

- **Office of Children, Youth, & Families**
  - Regional Offices
Who are we?

  - Activities Include:
    - Reviewing and approving service descriptions
    - Developing policies regarding children’s behavioral health services
    - Conducting site visits and monitoring of certain children’s behavioral health services
  - Located in Harrisburg
Who are we?

OMHSAS Regional Field Offices

Activities include:
- Licensing mental health providers (e.g., outpatient clinics, partial hospitalization programs, family-based, and host homes)
- Receive waiver requests
- Liaison with counties and BH-MCOs

There are 4 regional offices, each covering specific counties and BH-MCO contracts
- West (Pittsburgh)
- Central (Harrisburg)
- Northeast (Scranton)
- Southeast (Norristown)
Who are we?

- **BH-MCOs**
  - **Activities include:**
    - Reviewing providers and services for enrollment in-network (credentialing process)
    - Authorizing and paying for services
The treatment components of MTFC are a “Program Exception,” and therefore MTFC providers must comply with the bulletins governing Program Exceptions.
What is a Program Exception (PE)?

- A PE is a unique service that is not on the M.A. Fee Schedule.

- The M.A. Fee Schedule includes defined services, on the State Plan, with established rates and procedure (billing) codes.

  - Examples: outpatient clinic services, FBMHS, partial hospitalization programs, psychiatric evaluations.
What is a PE? (cont.)

- Examples of PEs:
  - unique in-home services
  - therapeutic after school programs
  - MST
  - FFT
  - Unique services for a specific individual

- Also, fee scheduled services that are in some way unique and require an exception
What is a PE? (cont.)

Regulated by 2 Medical Assistance Bulletins

- **MAB 1153-95-01**, “Accessing Outpatient Wraparound Mental Health Services Not Currently Included in the M.A. Fee Schedule for Eligible Children Under 21 Years of Age”

- **MAB 01-96-01** “Procedures for Service Descriptions”

(Available at [http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/) → Publications → Bulletin Search → Search For a Bulletin → scroll to bottom of page)
Expectations for PEs

Highlights from the 2 Bulletins:

- Provider needs a base mental health license to enroll a PE (partial, outpatient, or family-based)
- MTFC providers must also have a CRR host home license (see slides 32-36 for more information)
A service description following the required format must be approved by OMHSAS.

- The service must be delivered in a manner consistent with the approved service description. This includes aspects related to client eligibility, service components, staff qualifications, supervision, counties served, etc.

- Any significant changes to the service description must be approved by OMHSAS.
Expectations for PEs, cont.

Bulletin highlights, cont.

- **Client eligibility:**
  - Has a recent psych eval prescribing the service, documenting medical necessity, and supporting a DSM diagnosis
  - Service is recommended by an ISPT that includes certain key participants
  - Service is prior authorized
As MA Providers, MTFC providers must also comply with state regulations and bulletins that apply to all Medical Assistance Providers, including those pertaining to:

- Documentation
- Billing
- Restrictive procedures
- Current medical and ethical standards
Expectations for MA Providers

Applicable policies and regulations include, but are not limited to:

- PA PROMISe Provider Handbook
- MAB 29-02-03, Documentation & Medical Record Keeping Requirements
- OCYF Bulletin 3490-08-03, re. background check requirements
- MAB OMHSAS-02-01, re. restraint & seclusion
- Act 147 (consent to treatment)
IMPORTANT POINTS

- It is each MTFC provider’s responsibility to be familiar with the requirements and expectations associated with being a Program Exception and an MA provider.

- MTFC providers must also comply with the CRR regulations (see slides 32-36 for additional information)

  - Visit [www.pacode.com](http://www.pacode.com) → Title 55, Public Welfare. Chapter 5310, Community Residential Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally Ill
How do we get our program into M.A.?

4 step process:
1. Local collaboration
2. Service description approval
3. Rate setting
4. Enrollment
Step 1: Local Collaboration

Gather local support from the county MH/MR and BH-MCO.

- START EARLY!!! The BH-MCO needs time to plan and budget for new services. If your agency has received a grant, begin communication with the county and BH-MCO right away.

- INCLUDE MH/MR!!! The Children’s Bureau requires documentation that the county MH/MR supports the service. Support from C&Y or JPO alone is not sufficient. Waiting until “late in the game” to involve MH/MR may create obstacles, so be sure that MH/MR is involved in all county discussions from the beginning.
Step 1: Local Collaboration, cont.

- Clearly discuss appropriate referrals with the county.

- Emphasize the need for youth to have a post-placement resource identified at the time of referral. Make sure the county takes this requirement into consideration when determining the county’s need for the service.

- Ensure the county understands its responsibility to pay for room & board and any other non-treatment related costs.

- Costs associated with foster care and host home services cannot be paid for with MA funds. Examples include, but are not limited to: research gathering and completion of documentation required by the foster care or host home program, recruiting or interviewing potential foster or host home parents, home investigations, making placement arrangements, providing transportation, assessing adoption placements, serving legal papers, and administering foster care subsidies.
Step 1: Local Collaboration, cont.

- Each BH-MCO has its own process for reviewing service descriptions and rate-setting. Your BH-MCO may want to review the service description before, at the same time as, or after OMHSAS conducts its review. Learn what process is required by your BH-MCO.
Step 2: Service Description (SD) Approval

- Submit a SD and required documents to the Children’s Bureau
  - The SD must follow the required format (MAB 1153-95-01, Attachment 7)
  - A sample MTFC SD is available to providers upon request
- The Children’s Bureau may request additional information / documentation before making a decision. Submit the SD as early as possible to allow sufficient time for review.
Step 2: SD Approval, cont.

OMHSAS requirements for MTFC programs

- A base mental health license – i.e., outpatient psychiatric clinic, partial hospitalization program, or family-based. A waiver of this requirements may be possible for some RTF providers.
- A CRR Host Home license
- *Either* MTFC certification *or* an Implementation Agreement with TFCC
- Certain staff qualifications (see sample service description)
- Documentation of support from the county MH/MR
Step 2: SD Approval, cont.

- M.A. can only pay for the treatment costs associated with MTFC, not the entire program.

- Therefore, the name of the MA-funded service: Therapeutic Services in Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care. This should be the title used in the service description.

- Room and Board and “typical” foster care costs are not paid by M.A.
Step 2: SD Approval, cont.

- Final approval will not be issued until the MTFC team has completed training & certificates of attendance are submitted.
- The Children’s Bureau will issue a written approval for the program, which is sent via email. This approval is county specific.
- For teams that are not yet certified, the approval will be conditional. Certification is expected with 24 months of beginning to serve youth.
Step 3: Rate Setting

- OMHSAS Bureau of Financial Management establishes Fee-for-Service rates
- Each BH-MCO establishes a rate for its clients
Step 3: Rate Setting, cont.

Fee-for-Service

- The Fee-for-Service rate:
  - Is a “break-even” rate that does not allow for profit
  - Applies to youth who are still in the fee-for-service system (i.e., not covered by the BH-MCO)
- The rate can only include allowable treatment costs
- Room & Board and “typical” foster care costs are not covered by MA
Step 4: Enrollment

- Handled by OMHSAS Division of Knowledge Management or OMAP enrollment unit, depending on provider type and service.

PART 1: Need to be enrolled with DPW and BH-MCO as a Medical Assistance provider

- This requires a base Mental Health License
- Applicable Provider Types are:
  - Provider Type 08 (clinic)
  - Provider Type 11 (partial, family-based)
Step 4: Enrollment, cont.

- **Part 2:** Need to submit a PROMISe application for a Specialty Code 340 to be added to the base mental health license
- Specialty Code cannot be added to file until SD is approved
Reminder

- Each BH-MCO has its own process for approval and enrollment, which providers must follow.
- It is important to know your BH-MCO’s process before beginning.
OMHSAS Monitoring of MTFC

Goals:

1. Monitor quality of clinical services
2. Monitor outcomes
3. Ensure compliance with service description, fidelity to the model, and MA policies and regulations
OMHSAS Monitoring of MTFC

Monitoring Process

1. Quarterly reports
   - Data collected by the EPIISCenter

2. Site visits
How are CRR Host Homes and MTFC programs related?

A CRR Host Home

- is a home licensed by OMHSAS (whereas foster homes are licensed by the Office of Children, Youth, & Families)
- must meet the CRR regulations (Chapter 5310 of the Public Welfare Code, see slide 16)
- a service description demonstrating how the regulations will be met is submitted to the regional OMHSAS Field Office as part of the licensing process
CRR Host Homes & MTFC, cont.

- CRR Host Homes, cont.
  - Youth placed in a CRR Host Home may receive treatment services within the community. A Host Home program does not necessarily include treatment as part of its service.
  - The CRR license applies only to the homes themselves. The regulations for CRRs do not include any standards for treatment.
  - Counties fund room & board for host home programs.
If a Host Home provider wishes to provide treatment to youth placed in the homes, it must submit a service description to the OMHSAS Children’s Bureau that describes the treatment program.

If approved, M.A. pays for the treatment program that is delivered to the youth in the Host Home program.
CRR Host Homes & MTFC, cont.

- Many types of treatment programs exist in conjunction with CRR Host Homes.
- MTFC is one type of treatment program that can occur within a CRR Host Home.

MTFC providers must comply with both the CRR regulations (because of their CRR Host Home license) and the requirements for Program Exceptions and MA Providers (because of their MA-funded treatment program).
CRR Host Homes & MTFC, cont.

- CRR licenses are handled by the OMHSAS Regional Field Offices
- Service descriptions for the MA funded “Therapeutic Services in MTFC” are handled by the OMHSAS Children’s Bureau
QUESTIONS?

Courtney Coover
(717) 772-7855
ccoover@state.pa.us

Patrick Rieker, Ph.D.
(717) 772-7639
c-prieker@state.pa.us