



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

February 26, 2010

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

The Honorable Verla Insko – Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 307-B1, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Representative Insko:

Session Law 2009-0451 Section 10.68A.(a) 6, required the Department of Health and Human Services to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services on a rate study of Community Support Team and to revise qualifications and tighten the service definition to contain costs in this line item, on or before December 1, 2009.

The Department has revised the definition and tightened requirements for this service but these changes have not gone through the final approval process. While an initial rate study has been completed based on the proposed changes, it cannot be finalized until the changes are finalized. The Department anticipates submitting the final report no later than April 16, 2010.

In an effort to keep you informed on the Department's efforts regarding this initiative, the Divisions of Medical Assistance; and Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, in consultation with Mercer Government Human Services Consulting (Mercer), reviewed this service. The revised definition increases staffing requirements to include a team leader who is licensed or provisionally licensed, reduces the number of hours per week the services can be provided, reduces the authorization time period to six months, requires providers to use an evidenced based practice model, assigns duties and functions to team members, and clarifies what is and what is not billable activity under this rehabilitative service. Additionally, the entrance criteria were revised to ensure individuals admitted to this service would have significant mental health and/or substance abuse problems and that they would be appropriate for treatment by a Community Support Team. The revised definition has been posted on the Division of Medical Assistance Clinical Policy Website for public comment until March 3, 2010. Public comments will then be gathered and considered for possible changes to the service definition policy. The rate analysis will be completed after any additional changes are made to the service definition.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Tara Larson, Chief Clinical Operations Officer of the Division of Medical Assistance at (919) 855-4100.

Sincerely,


Lanier M. Cansler

LMC:tl

Location: 101 Blair Drive • Adams Building • Raleigh, N.C. 27603

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