

NUMBER

#19-53-03

DATE

July 29, 2019

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors

Tribal Directors

Social Services Supervisors and
StaffTribal Social Services
Supervisors and Staff

County Attorneys

Tribal Attorneys

Fiscal Supervisors

ACTION/DUE DATEPlease read information and
prepare for implementation**EXPIRATION DATE**

July 29, 2021

Integrated Behavioral Health Care

TOPIC

Alignment of county, state and federal funding sources for mental health and substance use disorder treatment through implementation of revisions to [Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Spec. Sess. chapter 9](#), article 6, sections 42-45, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 68 -70, 81.

PURPOSE

Inform county and tribal agency staff of timelines for establishment of the Behavioral Health Fund and removal of county share.

CONTACT

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STACY TWITE
Interim Assistant Commissioner
Community Supports Administration

ALEXANDRA KOTZE
Chief Financial Officer

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

In Minnesota, there are differences in how mental health and substance use disorder treatment systems operate and are financed. In 2019, the Minnesota Legislature adopted changes to promote an integrated continuum of mental health and substance use disorder care that helps connect people to other health care services and also supports people to transition to the community when they no longer need intensive treatment.

What's changing?

Starting July 1, 2020, the new legislation will make the following changes:

- Simplifies and aligns rates and payment systems for room and board in residential treatment facilities.
- Eliminates county share of costs for 1) substance use disorder services to people receiving Medical Assistance, and 2) room and board in residential treatment facilities (Note: please see III. Changes to county share).
- Encourages counties to help people enroll in Medical Assistance so that people eligible for Medical Assistance and substance use disorder services have integrated access to coverage for other health care and mental health services.
- More people receiving substance use disorder services will have health care coverage.
- Helps people with housing instability transition out of residential treatment into housing instead of homelessness.

What's not changing?

The following is not impacted by the 2019 legislation:

- Mental health or substance use disorder treatment services or rates;
- Room and board rates in residential substance use disorder treatment facilities.

II. Behavioral Health Funding Alignment

Changes passed into law in the 2019 legislative session more closely align the way that substance use disorder and mental health residential services are paid for, increases incentives for providers and counties to enroll people onto Medicaid and allows room and board for adult mental health residential treatment to be paid for in the same way as room and board for substance use disorder residential services.

In order to accomplish this, the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Fund (CCDTF) will be re-named and established as a new account that will be referred to as the Behavioral Health Fund. Methods of forecasting used in the CCDTF will remain in place for the Behavioral Health Fund.

III. Changes to County Share

The current effective date for county share changes is July 1, 2020. Due to discrepancies between the statute and the tracking documents, the date may be adjusted earlier if revisions are authorized by the Minnesota legislature.

A. Removal of County-Share

Revisions to Minnesota Statutes, section 254.03B, subdivision 2, eliminates the county share of costs for substance use disorder treatment services for people on Medical Assistance, and eliminates the county share for room and board for all recipients of substance use disorder residential treatment. Elimination of the county share creates incentives for counties to enroll Minnesotans onto Medical Assistance.

B. Revisions to Percentage for County-Share

Revisions to Minnesota Statutes, section 254.03B, subdivision 4a, include changes in the percentage of county share for substance use disorder services. However, discrepancies in statute effective dates could increase the percentage for the county share in fiscal year 2020. Recognizing this, the Minnesota Department of Human Services will seek an amendment during the 2020 legislative session to make dates across both sections consistent. Addressing the implementation date discrepancy will eliminate risk of a retroactive increase to the county share percentage in 2020.

III. Room and Board in Residential Treatment Facilities

Effective July 1, 2020, the Behavioral Health Fund will align room and board rates and billing methods between substance use disorder and mental health adult residential treatment programs. This will include a room and board rate increase for adult mental health Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and adult mental health Residential Crisis Stabilization (RCS) facilities. Detail regarding implementation of these changes will be published in future bulletins. No county share will be applied to room and board payments.

IV. Transition to Housing Support

Effective July 1, 2020, adults leaving Minnesota's mental health or substance use disorder residential treatment facilities will be eligible for up to three months of housing support if they have verified housing instability and are moving into an opening within an authorized setting. Implementation of this

change is expected to curb cycles in which people leave residential treatment and become homeless. Detail regarding implementation of this change will be published in future bulletins.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-2460 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.