



## **Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Bayou Health Informational Bulletin 15-8 April 13, 2015**

### **Issue: Certification of Behavioral Health Providers**

This communication is to inform you of Medicaid policy decisions made concerning certification requirements as we prepare for integration of specialized Medicaid behavioral health services into Bayou Health effective Dec. 1, 2015. Providers will continue to work with Magellan of Louisiana for the provision of Medicaid behavioral health services through Nov. 30, 2015.

#### **Existing LBHP Providers with Active OBH Certification:**

From May 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015, the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) will engage the annual recertification process for behavioral health providers required to be certified under the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP). The accelerated recertification process will apply to all Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP), organizations and hospitals that provide behavioral health services. Providers who meet OBH recertification requirements will be granted “deemed status,” a certification status acceptable by the Bayou Health plans through June 30, 2016. To ensure you are recertified and can meet credentialing requirements by the Bayou Health plans before integration goes live on December 1, 2015, please make sure to submit your annual recertification packets within the specified timeframe of May 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015. Note: Psychiatrists are not required to be certified through OBH to provide Medicaid behavioral health services and are exempted from this process.

#### **Newly Enrolled Behavioral Health Providers without Active OBH Certification:**

OBH will continue to certify new LMHPs, organizations, and hospitals through Nov. 30, 2015, at which time, the certification and recertification functions will transfer to the Bayou Health plans. Newly enrolled providers who meet OBH certification requirements during this time period will be granted deemed status for certification under the Bayou Health plans through June 30, 2016.

Note: Psychiatrists are not required to be certified through OBH to provide Medicaid behavioral health services and are exempted from this process.

ALL providers can find information regarding both certification for new providers and re-certification for existing providers on the Department of Health and Hospital’s website [here](#).

For questions regarding the overall OBH certification process, please email [OBHCertification@LA.GOV](mailto:OBHCertification@LA.GOV) or call 225-342-1630.

Behavioral health providers will be responsible for completing the credentialing and contracting process with the Bayou Health plans with whom they elect to contract prior to Dec. 1, 2015, at which time Medicaid

behavioral health services will be managed by Bayou Health. **We strongly recommend credentialing and contracting, including being loaded into the Plan's system for reimbursement, well in advance of that date.** Credentialing and contracting with the Plan in which a patient is enrolled will be necessary in order for providers to receive reimbursement for services provided on or after Dec. 1, 2015.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Johnson at [bayouhealth@la.gov](mailto:bayouhealth@la.gov).