

MEDICAID POLICY REVISION

IMMINENT PERIL JUSTIFICATION

June 29, 2022

SUSPENDING AGENTS:

POLICY REVISION:

The MCO Manual and the Professional Services, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Rural Health Clinics chapters of the Medicaid Services Manual have been revised to add a description of coverage for Community Health Workers (CHW), effective January 1, 2022.

JUSTIFICATION:

These additions to the managed care and fee-for-service policies are the result of ongoing work related to addressing a healthcare workforce shortage that is currently unable to provide needed support for Louisiana Medicaid beneficiaries who have chronic medical, mental health, and social conditions. The addition of coverage for CHWs is now urgently needed in response a continued workforce shortage resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The CHW benefit described in these policies will allow CHWs to provide services to beneficiaries with pregnancy, one or more chronic medical or mental health condition, and/or an unmet health-related social need. A delay in approval could result in the denial of CHW services for those who are unable to manage their conditions without additional support. A delay in implementing the CHW benefit will therefore jeopardize the health and well-being of the Medicaid beneficiaries authorized to receive these services effective January 1, 2022.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

January 1, 2022