

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**Department of Health and Hospitals
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Therapeutic Group Homes
Licensing Standards
(LAC 48:I.Chapter 62)**

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 48:I.Chapter 62 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

In compliance with the directives of R.S. 40:2009, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopted provisions governing the minimum licensing standards for therapeutic group homes(TGH)in order to prepare for the transition to a comprehensive system of delivery for behavioral health services in the state (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 38, Number 2).

The department promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended the provisions governing TGH licensing standards to revise the current TGH licensing regulations (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 40, Number 7). This Emergency Rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the July 20, 2014 Emergency Rule.

This action is being taken to promote the health and welfare of Medicaid recipients by ensuring sufficient provider participation and recipient access to services.

Effective July 18, 2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing the licensing standards for TGH providers.

Title 48

PUBLIC HEALTH-GENERAL Part I. General Administration Subpart 3. Licensing

Chapter 62. Therapeutic Group Homes

Subchapter A. General Provisions

§6203. Definitions

Active Treatment-implementation of a professionally developed and supervised comprehensive treatment plan that is developed no later than seven days after admission and designed to achieve the client's discharge from inpatient status within the shortest practicable time. To be considered active treatment, the services must contribute to the achievement of the goals listed in the comprehensive treatment plan. Tutoring, attending school, and transportation are not considered *active treatment*. Recreational activities can be considered active treatment when such activities are community based, structured and integrated within the surrounding community.

Therapeutic Group Home (TGH)-a facility that provides

community-based residential services to clients under the age of 21 in a home-like setting of no greater than 10 beds under the supervision and oversight of a psychiatrist or psychologist.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:402 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

Subchapter B. Licensing

§6213. Changes in Licensee Information or Personnel

A. - C.1. ...

2. A TGH that is under provisional licensure, license revocation, or denial of license renewal may not undergo a CHOW.

D. - E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:405 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6219. Licensing Surveys

A. - D. ...

E. If deficiencies have been cited during a licensing survey, regardless of whether an acceptable plan of correction

is required, the department may issue appropriate sanctions, including, but not limited to:

1. ...
2. directed plans of correction;
3. provisional licensure;
4. denial of renewal; and/or
5. license revocations.

F. - F.2 ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:406 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6221. Complaint Surveys

A. - J.1. ...

a. The offer of the administrative appeal, if appropriate, as determined by the Health Standards Section, shall be included in the notification letter of the results of the informal reconsideration results. The right to administrative appeal shall only be deemed appropriate and thereby afforded upon completion of the informal reconsideration.

2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:407 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6223. Statement of Deficiencies

A. - C.1. ...

2. The written request for informal reconsideration of the deficiencies shall be submitted to the Health Standards Section and will be considered timely if received by HSS within 10 calendar days of the provider's receipt of the statement of deficiencies.

3. - 5. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:407 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6225. Cessation of Business

A. Except as provided in §6295 of this chapter, a license shall be immediately null and void if a TGH ceases to operate.

1. - 3. Repealed.

B. A cessation of business is deemed to be effective the date on which the TGH stopped offering or providing services to the community.

C. Upon the cessation of business, the provider shall immediately return the original license to the department.

D. Cessation of business is deemed to be a voluntary action on the part of the provider. The provider does not have a right to appeal a cessation of business.

E. Prior to the effective date of the closure or cessation of business, the TGH shall:

1. give 30 days' advance written notice to:
 - a. HSS;
 - b. the prescribing physician; and
 - c. the parent(s) or legal guardian or legal representative of each client; and
2. provide for an orderly discharge and transition of all of the clients in the facility.

F. In addition to the advance notice of voluntary closure, the TGH shall submit a written plan for the disposition of client medical records for approval by the department. The plan shall include the following:

1. the effective date of the voluntary closure;
2. provisions that comply with federal and state laws on storage, maintenance, access, and confidentiality of the closed provider's clients' medical records;
3. an appointed custodian(s) who shall provide the following:
 - a. access to records and copies of records to the client or authorized representative, upon presentation of proper authorization(s); and

b. physical and environmental security that protects the records against fire, water, intrusion, unauthorized access, loss and destruction; and

4. public notice regarding access to records, in the newspaper with the largest circulation in close proximity to the closing provider, at least 15 days prior to the effective date of closure.

G. If a TGH fails to follow these procedures, the owners, managers, officers, directors, and administrators may be prohibited from opening, managing, directing, operating, or owning a TGH for a period of two years.

H. Once the TGH has ceased doing business, the TGH shall not provide services until the provider has obtained a new initial license.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:407 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6227. Denial of License, Revocation of License, or Denial of License Renewal

A. - C.3. ...

D. Revocation of License or Denial of License Renewal. A TGH license may be revoked or may be denied renewal for any of the following reasons, including but not limited to:

1. - 15. ...

16. failure to repay an identified overpayment to the department or failure to enter into a payment agreement to repay such overpayment;

17. failure to timely pay outstanding fees, fines, sanctions, or other debts owed to the department; or

18. failure to maintain accreditation, or for a new TGH that has applied for accreditation, the failure to obtain accreditation.

19. Repealed

E. If a TGH license is revoked or renewal is denied or the license is surrendered in lieu of an adverse action, any owner, officer, member, director, manager, or administrator of such TGH may be prohibited from opening, managing, directing, operating, or owning another TGH for a period of two years from the date of the final disposition of the revocation, denial action, or surrender.

F. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:408 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6229. Notice and Appeal of License Denial, License Revocation, License Non-Renewal, and Appeal of Provisional

License

A. - B. ...

1. The TGH provider shall request the informal reconsideration within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the notice of the license denial, license revocation, or license non-renewal. The request for informal reconsideration must be in writing and shall be forwarded to the Health Standards Section.

B.2. - D. ...

E. If a timely administrative appeal has been filed by the provider on a license denial, license non-renewal, or license revocation, the DAL or its successor shall conduct the hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act.

E.1. - G.2. ...

3. The provider shall request the informal reconsideration in writing, which shall be received by the HSS within five days of receipt of the notice of the results of the follow-up survey from the department.

a. Repealed

4. The provider shall request the administrative appeal within 15 days of receipt of the notice of the results of the follow-up survey from the department. The request for administrative appeal shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor.

a. Repealed

H. - H.1. ...

I. If a timely administrative appeal has been filed by a provider with a provisional initial license that has expired or by an existing provider whose provisional license has expired under the provisions of this Chapter, the DAL or its successor shall conduct the hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act.

1. - 2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:409 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

Subchapter D. Provider Responsibilities

§6247. Staffing Requirements

A. - C.2. ...

3. A ratio of not less than one staff to five clients is maintained at all times; however, two staff must be on duty at all times with at least one being direct care staff when there is a client present.

D. - D.3. ...

4. Therapist. Each therapist shall be available at least three hours per week for individual and group therapy and two hours per month for family therapy.

5. Direct Care Staff. The ratio of direct care staff to clients served shall be 1:5 with a minimum of two staff

on duty per shift for a 10 bed capacity. This ratio may need to be increased based on the assessed level of acuity of the youth or if treatment interventions are delivered in the community and offsite.

E. - G. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:413 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6249. Personnel Qualifications and Responsibilities

A. - 1.a.ii.(c). ...

b. A supervising practitioner's responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

i. reviewing the referral PTA and completing an initial diagnostic assessment at admission or within 72 hours of admission and prior to service delivery;

ii. - iv. ...

v. at least every 28 days or more often as necessary, providing:

1.b.v.(a). - 6.b.viii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:414

(February 2012), amended LR 41:

Subchapter F. Services

§6267. Comprehensive Treatment Plan

A. Within seven days of admission, a comprehensive treatment plan shall be developed by the established multidisciplinary team of staff providing services for the client. Each treatment team member shall sign and indicate their attendance and involvement in the treatment team meeting. The treatment team review shall be directed and supervised by the supervising practitioner at a minimum of every 28 days.

B. - G.5. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:418 (February 2012), amended LR 41:

§6269. Client Services

A. - A.4. ...

B. The TGH is required to provide at least 16 hours of active treatment per week to each client. This treatment shall be provided and/or monitored by qualified staff.

C. The TGH shall have a written plan for insuring that a range of daily indoor and outdoor recreational and leisure opportunities are provided for clients. Such opportunities shall be based on both the individual interests and needs of the

client and the composition of the living group.

C.1. - G.4. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.
36:254 and R.S. 40:2009.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health
and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:419
(February 2012), amended LR 41:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be
contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
(CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and
approval is required.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Cecile
Castello, Health Standards Section, P.O. Box 3767, Baton Rouge,
LA 70821 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Castello is
responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency
Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by
interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Kathy H. Kliebert

Secretary