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**County:** East Baton Rouge

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PUBLIC NOTICE - - - PUBLIC NOTICE Louisiana Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing and Office of Behavioral Health Children's Mental Health Services Act 582 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature enacted R.S 40:2162 relative to the provision of specialized behavioral health rehabilitation services in the Medical Assistance Program. In compliance with Act 582 and federal public notice requirements of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) hereby give public notice of the Department's intent to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to CMS requesting approval to amend the Medicaid State Plan provisions governing Children's Mental Health Services in order to revise provider and staff qualifications relative to Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST) and Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) services. These services may be provided by an agency licensed to provide mental health services. The proposed requirements will be effective on January 1, 2019. The Department now proposes to amend the provisions governing these services to establish a preliminary accreditation requirement. If not already fully accredited by a Department-approved accrediting organization, providers of CPST and/or PSR services must attain a preliminary accreditation prior to rendering the services, and must attain full accreditation within 18 months of the initial accreditation application date. The Department shall also establish staff qualifications for the provision of CPST and PSR services by providers operating under an agency license according to the following proposed requirements. Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment Effective January 1, 2019, individuals with a master's degree from an accredited university or college in social work, counseling, psychology, or sociology may provide all aspects of CPST, including counseling. Any individual rendering the counseling component of CPST for a licensed agency, who does not possess the minimum master's degree, but who met all provider qualifications in effect prior to January 1, 2019, may continue to provide the counseling component of CPST for the same licensed provider agency. Prior to the individual rendering the counseling component of CPST for a different provider agency, the individual must comply with the minimum master's degree provisions of this section. Effective January 1, 2019, other aspects of CPST, except for counseling, may be performed by an individual with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, psychology or sociology. Credentialed peer support specialists who meet the qualifications above may also provide this service. Psychosocial Rehabilitation Effective January 1, 2019, any individual rendering PSR services for a licensed provider agency shall hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college in the field of counseling, social work, psychology or sociology. Any individual rendering PSR services who does not possess the minimum bachelor's degree, but who met all provider qualifications in effect prior to January 1, 2019, may continue to provide PSR services for the same licensed provider agency. Prior to the individual rendering PSR services for a different provider agency, the individual must comply with the minimum bachelor's degree provisions of this section. Credentialed peer support specialists who meet the qualifications above may also provide this service. Implementation of the provisions of this State Plan Amendment is contingent upon CMS approval. Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 708219030 or by email to [MedicaidPolicy@la.gov](mailto:MedicaidPolicy@la.gov). The deadline for receipt of all written comments is November 16, 2018 by 4:30 p.m. Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH Secretary 302872-oct 17-1t

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