



Children and Adults Health Programs Group

August 6, 2020

Ruth Johnson
Medicaid Executive Director
Louisiana Department of Health
P.O. Box 629
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for your Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) #LA-20-0008 submitted on June 30, 2020. LA-20-0008 proposes to demonstrate compliance with section 5022 of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act. As you are aware, your SPA has been undergoing review by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Section 5022 of the SUPPORT Act added Section 2103(c)(5) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and requires that child health and pregnancy related assistance includes coverage of services necessary to prevent, diagnose, and treat a broad range of behavioral health symptoms and disorders. Additionally, section 2103(c)(5)(B) of the Act also requires that these behavioral health services be delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

In order to proceed with our review, we find it necessary to seek additional information primarily related to sections 2101(b) and 2103(c)(5) of the Act, which require that the state plan include a description of the state's coverage of behavioral health benefits. Please see a detailed list of questions below. We also recommend that we schedule a conference call with the state to discuss these questions when the state is available.

Under Section 2106(c) of the Act, CMS must approve, disapprove, or request additional information on a proposed amendment to a title XXI state plan within 90 days. This letter constitutes our notification that specified additional information is needed in order to fully assess this amendment. The 90-day review period has been stopped by this request and will resume as soon as a complete and substantive response to all of the concerns listed above is received.

Your Project Officer is Sandra Phelps. She is available to answer your questions and other CHIP-related matters. Ms. Phelps' contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-1968
E-mail: Sandra.Phelps@cms.hhs.gov

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We look forward to continue working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meg Barry". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Meg Barry
Acting Director
Division of State Coverage Programs

Attachment

Outstanding Questions SPA #: LA-20-0008

Section 6.3-BH: Covered Services

1) Louisiana has elected to provide Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) to its separate CHIP population. The state did not check off the following services that may be considered 1905(a) services under EPSDT.

- 6.3.2.4-BH Peer support for substance use disorder (SUD)
- 6.3.2.7-BH Intensive in-home services
- 6.3.2.8-BH Intensive outpatient for mental health
- 6.3.2.9-BH Psychosocial rehabilitation for SUD
- 6.3.3-BH Day treatment
- 6.3.3.1-BH Partial hospitalization
- 6.3.5.1-BH Crisis intervention and stabilization for SUD
- 6.3.6-BH Continuing care services
- 6.3.7-BH Care coordination
- 6.3.7.2-BH Care transition services
- 6.3.8-BH Case management

Please clarify whether these services are available to CHIP eligible children outside of the CHIP state plan if medically necessary? If applicable, please provide a description of how these services are provided under the appropriate box, but do not check off the box for these services because they are not provided under the CHIP State plan.

Section 6.3.1.2-BH: Strategies to facilitate the use of *Screening Tools*

2) Please provide a response to section 6.3.1.2-BH, which requests that the state describe a strategy for facilitating the use of age appropriate and validated behavioral health screening tools. We can provide technical assistance in this area if helpful. For example, some states require the use of validated screening tools through their managed care contracts, and/or conduct provider education and training on the use of validated screening tools.

Section 6.4.2-BH: Strategies to facilitate the use of *Assessment Tools*

3) Louisiana indicates that it mandates providers to use certain assessment tools, such as the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) and the Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS). The state also says that the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is also mandated through a waiver. Can the state please confirm that the use of CANS is also required for the CHIP populations? What mechanism does the state use to require assessment tools, such as through the state's managed care contracts, or through a

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different type of mechanism? Please also clarify whether the state conducts provider education and training on the use of validated assessment tools.