Date: October 16, 2019

To: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid
       Kathy Nichols, Assistant Director for Services and Supports, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Community Support Team (CST)

The Medicaid State Plan Amendment for the Community Support Team (CST) service was approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services with an effective date of October 1, 2019. The policy has been posted for an additional 15-day public comment. Following the 15-day public comment period, the final CST policy will be posted with an effective date of November 1, 2019.

CST Policy changes are as follows:

• Team composition has changed from three staff positions to four staff positions.
• Team composition includes: Team Lead-Licensed Professional, Substance Use Professional, and two FTE-Qualified Professional (QP), Associate Professional (AP), Paraprofessional (PP), or NC Certified Peer Support Specialist (NCPSS).
• Expectation that if individual needs the support of a peer that they will be referred to a team that has a peer.
• Ratio is now 12:1 individual/staff with a team maximum of 48 (previously 15:1 with a team maximum of 45).
• Functional assessment and housing assessment are now required to be completed.
• 36 unmanaged units for initial 30-calendar day passthrough to engage the individual early in treatment. This is once per episode of care in a state fiscal year.
• Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) (Tenancy Support Services Training) components added to the service include:
  o Assist beneficiary with housing search including engaging landlords to rent to beneficiaries and writing reasonable accommodation letters;
  o Assist connecting beneficiaries to financial and in-kind resources to set up and maintain their household
  o Prevent and mitigate housing crises including being a point of contact for landlord concerns;
  o Assist with rehousing beneficiaries if they are no longer able to stay in their unit due to eviction or
risk of eviction;
- Assist in developing daily living skills to stabilize and maintain housing
- 15 hours of staff training PSH is required.

If you have any questions, please contact June Freeman at 919-527-7646 or e-mail June.Freeman@dhhs.nc.gov or contact Stacy Smith at 919-715-2368 or e-mail Stacy.Smith@dhhs.nc.gov.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins

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