



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

Pat McCrory
Governor


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June 13, 2013

To: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee Members on HHS
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MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
NC Association of County DSS Directors

From: Dave Richard 

**Communication Bulletin # 132
Supported Employment and Long Term Vocational
Support Definitions**



The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is expanding the Supported Employment and Long Term Vocational Support for individuals with the diagnosis of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The new service definitions are based on the requirements set forth in the Transitions to Community Living Initiative as implementation of the agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) on August 23, 2012. The new service definition incorporates evidence-based practice models, redefines who is eligible for the service, and clarifies how to collaborate with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). Guidance on staffing, training, fidelity monitoring, and outcome measures is also included. This definition supersedes all former guidance around Supported Employment/Long Term Vocational Support for MH/SA (SE/LTVS) service and training (including the IPRS 2003 definition or any Implementation Updates). The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Service’s (DMH/DD/SAS) Best Practices Team has been providing training on the new implementation plans and service definition in order to educate providers, local management entity-managed care organizations (LME-MCOs), families and consumers on the upcoming changes. New training on the MH/SA SE/LTVS models is being developed and will be available soon. The new MH/SA SE/LTVS definition and other updates will be posted on our Division’s employment [page](#).

The new definition, “Individual Supported Employment (YP630) with Long Term Vocational Supports (MH/SA LTVS) for individuals (YM645)”, implementation date was May 2, 2013. The old Supported Employment (individual) and separate LTVS definitions in the January 1, 2003 DMH/DD/SAS Service Definitions document ended as of May 1, 2013 for the individuals with the diagnosis of Mental Health or Substance abuse.

YP640 “Supported Employment (group)” will no longer be billable with the diagnosis of Mental Health and Substance Abuse after July 1, 2013; individuals will need to transition to YP630 or YM645. Group employment (work crews and enclaves) is not a best practice model and does not adhere to competitive employment outcomes.

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YP650 “Community Rehabilitation Program (Sheltered Workshop)” will no longer be billable with the diagnosis of Mental Health and Substance Abuse after July 1, 2013; individuals will need to transition to other appropriate programs per their person centered plan (PCP). If employment is still a goal, individuals should transition to supported employment as appropriate. This transition is necessary to adhere to best practices, competitive employment outcomes, and American with Disabilities Act (ADA)/Olmstead compliance standards.

The LME-MCO will need to develop providers to serve the MH/SA population in their network. DHHS is working to implement measures to provide Supported Employment services to individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness, who are in or at risk of entry to an adult care home. Through the settlement agreement 2,500 individuals with a diagnosis of Serious Mental Illness will have access to Supportive Employment Services by July 1, 2019. New DOJ allocations must be used to expand SE/LTVS for the mental health and substance abuse population; these dollars will be tracked.

The IDD Service System is exploring evidence based practices and emerging best practices in supported employment for individuals with a diagnosis of IDD while reviewing funding options to expand employment opportunities for these individuals.

Until the implementation of new services, the IDD population will continue to use the definitions for Supported Employment (individual), Supported Employment (group) and separate LTVS definitions in the January 1, 2003 DMH/DD/SAS Service Definitions.

Cc: Secretary Aldona Wos, M.D.
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