



Western Highlands Network News

January 18, 2008

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Upcoming Events

- WHN will be closed
1/21/08 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Upcoming Trainings

Claims & Reimbursement

1/17/08 1:00 – 3:00
WHN, 356 Biltmore Avenue,
Asheville, 28801
Upstairs Boardrooms

Crisis Response

1/22/08 12:00 – 4:00
Isothermal Community
College,
1255 W. Mills St., Columbus
28722
Room 118

A Psychiatric Rehabilitation Approach Skill Development

1/24/08 1:00 – 4:00
WHN, 356 Biltmore Avenue,
Asheville, 28801
Upstairs Boardrooms

Person Centered Planning for CS Providers

1/29/08 1:00 – 4:00
WHN, 356 Biltmore Avenue,
Asheville, NC 28801
Upstairs Boardrooms

For more information visit the
trainings page of our website:

http://www.westernhighlands.org/pr_training.htm

To RSVP for Trainings
Contact Heidi Sears at
sear0511@westernhighlands.org

Services Management News

Court Orders

It is the intent of Western Highlands to provide for the Court System quality evaluations through the provider panel. This document will describe the most commonly requested evaluations and the associated response and funding stream.

Multidisciplinary Evaluations:

These evaluations are generally performed on consumers who have been ordered by the Court for this evaluation due to concerns about the consumer's ability to be independent and make life decisions. This evaluation calls for an assessment by a psychologist, a social worker and a psychiatrist. Reports are written in an affidavit format and are prepared for the Court within a 30 day time period, as delineated on the order.

There is a state budget line which covers this service, but often falls short of the actual costs of the evaluation, given the intensity of staff demands. At ACCESS, staff is attempting to assign an appropriate IPRS target population, and to assess Medicaid status. Both of these funding streams, as well as the state budget line can be accessed to pay for this service.

Interdisciplinary Evaluations:

An Interdisciplinary Evaluation is typically ordered when previous efforts to mitigate the consumer's behavior, such as treatment, placement, medication, have failed to accomplish the desired outcome. On occasion, these evaluations are ordered when there is conflict on the team coordinating care, and the judge will order this process as an objective view of the successes and failures of interventions. These evaluations continue to be a part of "Area Program" responsibility. The scope of the assessment can include social workers and psychologists, but also require a psychiatrist as well. This evaluation does not examine the consumer, but rather evaluates the efficacy of services provided in the past, and makes recommendations to the Court about proper clinical directions which may need to be pursued. ACCESS attempts to establish an IPRS target population, and uses Medicaid, if available, to fund these evaluations.

Guardianship Evaluations:

These evaluations are performed on consumers when there is a question about their capacity to handle their affairs. However, this evaluation only requires that a psychologist examine the consumer, and make recommendations to the Court about their functioning in life domains. At ACCESS, staff is attempting to assign appropriate IPRS target populations, and to assess Medicaid status. There is no state budget line to cover this service. Western Highlands will work to have these services reimbursed.

Stay Informed!

NC Division of Mental Health

www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas

NC Division of Medical Assistance

www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/home.htm

Value Options

www.valueoptions.com

Contact Us

Western Highlands Network

356 Biltmore Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801

Phone: 800-671-6560
or 828-225-2785

www.westernhighlands.org

Capacity to Proceed Evaluations:

This type of evaluation is done by previously qualified Certified Forensic Examiners. This credential is offered by the state through the forensic unit at Dorothea Dix Hospital. The scope of this assessment is to determine whether a defendant is competent to proceed to trial, or whether further evaluation/treatment is necessary, at the local level or at Dix. There is a \$50.00 payment for this service, billed against the state budget line just as the Multidisciplinary Evaluation.

Other Court Ordered Evaluations:

There are several other types of evaluations which are Court ordered which are performed by local providers who are part of the Western Highlands Network. These may include Parental Capacity Evaluations which are contracted out to providers by local Departments of Social Services. There are also Parental Capacity Evaluations ordered in private custody matters. In these cases, the parties to the action are responsible for paying for their services.

Often, there is an expectation that "the state" has a responsibility to pay for whatever services the Court orders. In fact, in most cases, aside from those noted above, the services are not "medically necessary" and would be audit exceptions. These Court Ordered evaluations are the responsibility of the parties. Other examples of common Court orders to mental health programs include pre and post trial evaluations and evaluations ordered in private custody matters, probation agreements, and plea bargains. With the exception of the Capacity to Proceed evaluation, the Multidisciplinary Evaluation and the Interdisciplinary evaluation, the cost of these evaluations are the responsibility of the party to the action.

The Monitoring Corner

Introduction to the Monitoring Unit

The goal of the WHN Monitoring unit is to assist and support providers of Western Highlands Network in offering high quality services to consumers. Clinical reviews highlight good clinical practice by providers as well as identify areas in need of improvement. This function fulfills the requirements of the NC Division of MH/DD/SA.

WHN conducts reviews of providers within its 8-county catchment area under authority granted by Chapter 122C of the Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Act of 1985. "The [LME] shall monitor the provision of MH/DD/SA services for compliance with the law, which monitoring shall not supersede or duplicate the regulatory authority or functions of agencies of the Department." (122C.-111). In addition, NC Administrative Code stipulates that the "area authority or county program shall monitor the provision of public services in the area authority's or county program's catchment area..." (10A NCAC 27G.0601)

Recently, the Monitoring Unit at WHN has engaged in multiple, co-occurring monitoring processes which have been prescribed by the NC Division of MH/DD/SAS (DMH) and the NC Division of Medical Assistance (DMA). These include participating in the Community Support Post Payment Clinical Reviews and the Community Support record reviews. Plans of Corrective Action were issued for each of these activities using criteria set forth by DMH and DMA.

Currently the Monitoring Unit is the process of receiving and reviewing these plans as well as scheduling implementation reviews for each of these actions.

Next week: Meet the Monitoring Unit