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Mid-State Health Network

SPECIAL RELEASE!

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BHDDA Essential Services Directives During COVID-19

On Wednesday, 3/25/2020, MDHHS Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) issued 3 new communication advisories to the field regarding the provision of Essential Behavioral Health Services during the COVID-19 crisis. These documents contain vital information for all providers of behavioral health and SUD services, and are posted on the [MSHN COVID-19 website](#) for your review.

Per the document titled Communication #20-01, BHDDA has issued the following mandate: ***All behavioral health services are essential to sustain and protect life and therefore must continue to be provided under the Governor's Stay Home Stay Safe Order.*** While many organizations have moved to providing service via telehealth, we are aware that some organizations have implemented new admissions holds and other types of restrictions on service provision. In light of the recent directives from BHDDA, providers should take steps to immediately rescind admissions holds or other practices that limit access to services during this public health crisis.

MSHN recognizes that our treatment providers face unparalleled challenges in protecting the health of staff, clients and public health while sustaining operations during this pandemic.

We are hosting an online Zoom meeting on **Friday, 3/27/20 at 2:00 PM** to review the Essential Service expectations of the BHDDA and offer support and guidance around sustaining operations in this environment. The primary focus of this meeting will be the provision of services that cannot be provided via telehealth (primarily residential, withdrawal management, and OTP settings), but providers of all levels of care are welcome to participate.

We are grateful for your partnership in maintaining a strong safety net of public SUD treatment services for vulnerable individuals. We hope you will be able to join us Friday.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns by contacting coronavirus@midstatehealthnetwork.org.

Join Zoom Meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/7242810917>

Meeting ID: 724 281 0917

One tap mobile: 312.626.6799, 7242810917# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 724 281 0917

COVID-19 and MCBAP Credentialing

In response to the COVID-19 spread, MCBAP has halted testing/exams until further notice. Individuals **currently** with a development plan expiring can receive a 3-month extension by submitting a request to MCBAP info@mcbap.com.

Individuals with a **current** credential should still submit materials to MCBAP as required for renewal on schedule. Once reviewed and approved, those individuals will be added to the online list. It is unlikely that MCBAP will be able to update that list daily. As a result, please use the online list for verification of current credentials, or a confirmation email from MCBAP indicating that the individuals credentials are valid.

If someone with a current credential is short the required continuing education credits for recertification, contact MCBAP regarding possible options for 1) completing the required hours virtually or 2) requesting an extension. Provider staff are encouraged to send materials to MCBAP early. If this will impact an individual's credential expiration, **please email** MCBAP directly at info@mcbap.com.

Additionally, if a certification or development plan do expire in this time, a MSHN temporary privileging form should be submitted to MSHN with supporting documentation.

Credentialing information and temporary privileging forms can be found on the [MSHN Provider Credentialing](#) webpage.

Guidance on MSHN Policies and Procedures during the State of Emergency

During the current State of Emergency as a result of COVID-19, the Federal and State governments have been issuing policies and guidance on matters related to the provision of behavioral health services.

In the event that **any** policy or guidance is different or contradicts a current MSHN policy or procedure, please follow the Federal and/or State policy and guidance. If there is no policy or guidance that affects a current MSHN policy or procedure, please continue to follow MSHN's policies and procedures as required.

If you have any questions, please submit those to the following email: coronavirus@midstatehealthnetwork.org

ASAM Releases Technical Guidance For Providing Services Amidst COVID-19

The American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) has convened a COVID-19 taskforce which is rapidly producing technical guidance to the SUD treatment field on a number of specific issues related to mitigating risk of infection while maintaining service provision.

These resources can be found on the designated [ASAM COVID-19 Website](#).

Resources include:

[Participation in Support Groups & Recovery Activities](#)

[Infection Mitigation in Outpatient Settings](#)

[Adjusting Drug Testing Protocols](#)

Access to Buprenorphine (Coming Soon)

Access to Methadone (Coming Soon)

Infection Mitigation in Residential Settings(Coming Soon)

MICHIGAN TURNS TO TELEHEALTH

Our April 6 webinar will cover important developments in Michigan telehealth policy, including speakers from MDHHS, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center.

THE FUTURE OF TELEHEALTH IN MICHIGAN Webinar to replace "Future of Telehealth" conference
We will discuss telehealth policy responses to the COVID-19 epidemic on **April 6, 2020 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

With a global pandemic underway, there has never been a more urgent need for comprehensive and reliable telehealth services. Virtual care provides an opportunity for vulnerable and isolated Michigan

residents to see a doctor from the security of their own homes.

Please join the Health Fund on **April 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. for "Michigan Turns to Telehealth,"** a webinar outlining key updates to state Medicaid telehealth policy that are drastically expanding the reach of telehealth services. We'll make sure you get the information you need to implement these services or educate others on what's available.

Experts from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center will highlight commercial innovations and discuss the national environment for telehealth expansion, including the increased need due to the coronavirus outbreak.

For more information and resources regarding telehealth services, take a look at our new [telehealth page](#)

SPEAKERS

- **Laura Kilfoyle** – Medicaid Policy Division, MDHHS
- **Dr. George Kipa** – Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- **Becky Sanders** – Program Director, Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center

MICHIGAN POLICY UPDATES

- [Executive Orders](#)
- [Medicaid Policy](#)
 - [COVID-19 Response: Telemedicine Policy Expansion - Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans \(PIHPs\)/Community Mental Health Services Providers \(CMHSPs\) Implications](#) – Issued March 20, 2020
 - [COVID-19 Response: Relaxing Face-to-Face Requirement](#) – Policy update for Medicaid, Children Special Health Care Services, Flint Waiver, Healthy Michigan Plan – Issued March 18, 2020
 - [General Telemedicine Policy Changes: Updates to Existing Policy; Federally Qualified Health Center and Rural Health Clinic Policy Changes](#) – This policy expands the definition for originating site and updates reimbursement information. It was not released in response to COVID-19 but includes many changes that went into effect March 1, 2020.

RESOURCES:

[The Centers for Disease Control](#) provides updates on the virus and safety information for the public and healthcare professionals.

[The State of Michigan](#) provides updates on the disease's spread within the state, as well as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) available [here](#).

MSHN has developed a page on our website to provide updates and resources:

<https://midstatehealthnetwork.org/provider-network-resources/provider-resources-1/coronavirus-covid-19>

If you would like others on your team to receive MSHN's weekly updates and Special Releases, please share the link below for quick, easy registration

<http://tinyurl.com/MSHNSUDUpdate>