

## OVERVIEW

Specialized behavioral health services (SBHS) are mental health services and substance use/addiction disorder services, specifically defined in the Medicaid State Plan and/or applicable waivers. These services shall be administered under the authority of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) in collaboration with the Healthy Louisiana plans, as well as through the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) program contractor, for members enrolled in CSoC. Specialized behavioral health services are distinguished from basic behavioral health (BH) services offered by the Healthy Louisiana plans and the CSoC contractor. Basic BH services are mental health and substance use services which are provided to enrollees with emotional, psychological, substance use, psychiatric symptoms and/or disorders that are provided in the member’s primary care physician (PCP) office by the member’s PCP as part of primary care service activities.

This provider manual chapter outlines SBHS offered under Medicaid managed care, §1915(c) and §1915(b) waiver services offered only through the CSoC program contractor, as well as other specialized behavioral health services offered to CSoC children and Medicaid members enrolled in a Healthy Louisiana plan. Service limitations, utilization, allowed provider types and specialties, and eligibility criteria are covered for services within the chapter.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) strives to make the information in this manual chapter as accurate, complete, reliable and as timely as possible. This manual chapter is subject to change as the implementation and operations of specialized behavioral health services continue to evolve. Providers are responsible for ensuring services are delivered in accordance with this manual and compliant with any authorities in effect on the date of service. Prior to inclusion of behavioral health services in this Medicaid Service Provider Manual in 2017, the Service Definition Manual version 9 (SDM v9) was in effect. Providers must ensure services are delivered in accordance with the Medicaid Service Provider Manual and any other authorities in effect on the date of service.

All mental health services must be medically necessary in accordance with LAC 50:I.1101. The medical necessity for services shall be determined by a licensed mental health professional (LMHP) or physician who is acting within the scope of their professional license and applicable state law. There shall be member involvement throughout the planning and delivery of services.

Services shall be:

- Delivered in a culturally and linguistically competent manner;
- Respectful of the individual receiving services;

---

**CHAPTER 2: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

---

**SECTION 2.0: OVERVIEW**

**PAGE(S) 2**

- Appropriate to individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, sexual and gender identities and other cultural and linguistic groups; and
- Appropriate for age, development; and education.

LDH, its employees, agents, or others will not be liable or responsible for any claim, loss, injury, liability, or damages related to your use of, or reliance upon this information.

This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional legal, financial or business advice. This manual does not create, nor is it intended to create, an attorney-client relationship between you and LDH. You are urged to consult with your attorney, accountant or other qualified professional if you require advice or opinions tailored to your specific needs and circumstances.