

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
601 E. 12th St., Room 355  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

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May 22, 2023

Ms. Tara LeBlanc  
Medicaid Executive Director  
State of Louisiana  
Department of Health  
628 N 4th Street  
P.O. Box 91030  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030

Re: Louisiana State Plan Amendment (SPA) TN 23-0012

Dear Ms. LeBlanc:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 23-0012. This amendment proposes to amend the provisions governing behavioral health rehabilitation services in order to remove the face-to-face requirement for Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST) and to add permanent supportive housing agencies to the provider qualifications for Peer Support Services (PSS).

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations 42 CFR 440.130 (d). This letter is to inform you that Louisiana Medicaid SPA 23-0012 was approved on May 22, 2023, with an effective date of May 1, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Tobias Griffin at 214-767-4425 or via email at [Tobias.Griffin@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Tobias.Griffin@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

James G. Scott, Director  
Division of Program Operations

cc: Billy Bob Farrell, Branch Manager  
Karen Barnes, LA Department of Health

<b>TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL</b> <b>FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE &amp; MEDICAID SERVICES</b>		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER <b>23-0012</b>	2. STATE <b>LA</b>
TO: CENTER DIRECTOR CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE <u>XIX</u> OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT	
5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION  <b>42 CFR 440.130 (d)</b>		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE <b>May 1, 2023</b>	
7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT  Attachment 3.1-A, Item 4.b, Page 9a Attachment 3.1-A, Item 13.d, Page 13 Attachment 3.1-A, Item 13.d, Page 19		6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars) a. FFY <u>2023</u> \$ <u>0</u> b. FFY <u>2024</u> \$ <u>0</u>	
9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT <b>The purpose of this SPA is to amend the provisions governing behavioral health rehabilitation services in order to remove the face-to-face requirement for Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST) and <del>Peer Support Services (PSS)</del>, and to add permanent supportive housing agencies to the provider qualification for PSS.</b>		8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)  Same (TN 22-0026) Same (TN 22-0026) Same (TN 22-0007)	
10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT  <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED  <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL         </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:          The Governor does not review State Plan material.       </div> </div>			
11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL 		15. RETURN TO  <b>Tara A. LeBlanc, Medicaid Executive Director          Louisiana Department of Health          628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street          P.O. Box 91030          Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030</b>	
12. TYPED NAME <b>Pam Diez, designee for Stephen R. Russo, JD</b>		13. TITLE Executive Counsel <del>Secretary</del> Director of Legal Audit and Regulatory Compliance	
14. DATE SUBMITTED <del>April 14, 2023</del> April 19, 2023		16. DATE RECEIVED April 19, 2023	
FOR CMS USE ONLY			
18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL May 1, 2023		17. DATE APPROVED May 22, 2023	
PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED			
20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL James G. Scott		19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL  	
21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL Director, Division of Program Operations		22. REMARKS <b style="color: red;">The State requests pen and ink changes to boxes 9, 13, and 14, prior to submittal.</b>	

STATE OF LOUISIANA

AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED

LIMITATIONS ON THE AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF PROVIDED MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

- 2. Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST)** is a comprehensive service which focuses on reducing the disability resulting from mental illness, restoring functional skills of daily living, building natural supports and achieving identified person-centered goals or objectives through counseling, clinical psycho-education, and ongoing monitoring needs as set forth in the individualized treatment plan. Services must be provided in locations that meet the needs of the persons served.

The assessment and treatment planning components of CPST must be rendered by a licensed mental health professional (LMHP).

**Development of a treatment plan:** includes an agreement with the individual and family members (or other collateral contacts) on the specific strengths and needs, resources, natural supports and individual goals and objectives for that person. The overarching focus is to utilize the personal strengths, resources, and natural supports to reduce functional deficits associated with their mental illness and increase restoration of independent functioning. The agreement should also include developing a crisis management plan.

**Provider Qualifications**

To qualify as a CPST agency, the agency must be licensed as a behavioral health service provider by the Louisiana Department of Health and must obtain a preliminary accreditation or be fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Council on Accreditation (COA), or The Joint Commission (TJC). Individuals rendering CPST services must operate under an agency license.

CPST services shall be rendered by one of the following:

1. Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP)
2. Provisionally Licensed Professional Counselor (PLPC)
3. Provisionally Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (PLMFT)
4. Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)
5. Certified Social Worker (CSW)
6. Psychology intern from an American Psychological Association approved internship program.

All CPST practitioners, except LMHPs, must deliver services under regularly scheduled supervision in accordance with requirements established by the practitioner's professional licensing board.

- 3. Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)** services are designed to assist children and youth with compensating for or eliminating functional deficits and interpersonal and/or environmental barriers associated with their mental illness and restoring functional skills of daily living. Activities included must be intended to achieve the identified goals or objectives as set forth in the individualized treatment plan.

The intent of psychosocial rehabilitation is to restore the fullest possible integration of children and youth as active and productive members of his/ her family, community, and/or culture with the least amount of ongoing professional intervention. PSR is a face-to-face intervention provided individually or in a group

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**Exclusions**

The following shall be excluded from Medicaid reimbursement:

1. Components that are not provided to, or directed exclusively toward the treatment of, the Medicaid eligible individual;
2. Services provided at a work site which are job tasks oriented and not directly related to the treatment of the recipient's needs; and
3. Any services, or components in which the basic nature of the service(s) are to supplant housekeeping, homemaking, or basic services for the convenience of an individual receiving services.

**Service Descriptions**

1. **Therapeutic Services:** Individualized therapeutic interventions including assessment, medication management, individual, family, and group therapy, and psychological testing.

**Provider Qualifications**

A licensed mental health professional as defined above, must provide therapeutic services.

2. **Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST):** A comprehensive service which focuses on reducing the disability resulting from mental illness, restoring functional skills of daily living, building natural supports, and achieving identified person-centered goals or objectives through counseling, clinical psycho-education, and ongoing monitoring needs as set forth in the individualized treatment plan. Services must be provided in locations that meet the needs of the persons served.

The assessment and treatment planning components of CPST must be rendered by an LMHP.

**Provider Qualifications**

To qualify as a CPST agency, the agency must be licensed as a behavioral health service provider by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and must obtain a preliminary accreditation or be fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Council on Accreditation (COA), or The Joint Commission (TJC). Individuals rendering CPST services must operate under an agency license.

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**6. Peer Support Services:**

Peer support services (PSS) are an evidence-based behavioral health service that consists of a qualified peer support provider, who assists members with their recovery from mental illness and/or substance use. PSS are behavioral health rehabilitative services to reduce the disabling effects of an illness or disability and restore the beneficiary to the best possible functional level in the community. PSS are person-centered and recovery focused. PSS are face-to-face interventions with the member. Most contacts occur in community locations where the member lives, works, attends school and/or socializes.

**Provider Qualifications**

Peer support services must be provided under the administrative oversight of licensed and accredited local governing entities (LGEs) or certified Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) agencies. LGEs and PSH agencies must meet state and federal requirements for providing PSS.

An individual providing Peer Support Services must successfully complete an OBH approved peer training program prior to providing peer support services. Training provides the Peer Support Specialist with a basic set of competencies necessary to perform the peer support function. The Peer Support Specialist must also complete a minimum of ten (10) Continuing Education Units (CEU) per calendar year.

Credentialed Peer Support Specialists (CPSS) must have lived experience with a mental illness and/or substance use challenge or condition and must be at least 21 years of age. A CPSS must have at least twelve (12) months of continuous recovery, which is demonstrated by a lifestyle and decisions supporting an individual's overall wellness and recovery. CPSS must receive regularly scheduled clinical supervision from a Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP). LMHP supervisors must have the practice-specific education, experience, training, credentials, and licensure to coordinate an array of behavioral health services.

**7. Crisis Stabilization**

Crisis Stabilization (CS) is a short-term bed-based crisis treatment and support service for members who have received a lower level of crisis services and are at risk of hospitalization or institutionalization, including nursing home placement.

CS is utilized when additional crisis supports are necessary to stabilize the crisis and ensure community tenure in instances in which more intensive inpatient psychiatric care is not warranted or when the member's needs are better met at this level.