

THERAPEUTIC DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Children's Division shall fund extensive day treatment services through accredited community based organizations which are licensed by the Department of Mental Health as having an approved "day treatment program". Children deemed eligible for this specialized service shall:

- Be between the ages of 3 and 6 years of age (from the 3rd birthday up to but not including the 6th birthday,
- Be served by the Children's Division through Alternative Care, Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy, or Family Centered Services,
- Be eligible for Medicaid,
- Be placed in, or at high risk of, psychiatric hospitalization, residential care, or foster care,
- Be diagnosed within Axis I as having a mental health related illness as described in the International Classification of Diseases – 9th Revision (ICD-9), codes 290-316, and
- Be prior authorized for services by the Children's Division to ensure all criteria are met.

In order for a provider of this service to be eligible, the provider must:

- be licensed by the Department of Mental Health (DMH) as having an approved "day treatment program";
- be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body such as COA, CARF, or JCAHO (identified below);
- be enrolled as a Medicaid provider for the service;
- have services prior authorized by the Children's Division; and
- bill Medicaid directly for the provision of the service.

For the purposes of this program, day treatment services are defined as providing services including social adjustment services and/or treatment-oriented care designed to prevent movement into a more intensive, restrictive level of care.

Providers offering day treatment services must comply with all of the following:

SERVICE ELEMENTS:

1. The program offers a comprehensive interdisciplinary program of treatment, education, and activity to improve the functioning of the children served and their families.
2. Children served are engaged in therapeutic activities designed to develop and maintain a normalizing routine and provide an orderly schedule of activities to develop positive personal and interpersonal skills and behaviors.

3. Service components include:
 - A. An assessment of the social, emotional, physical, educational, and psychological needs of the child served and his/her family,
 - B. Development of a service plan with the involvement of the child's family, and
 - C. A structured program that includes individual and group treatment, family therapy, educational programming (including special education needs not met by the local school district), recreational activities, and other planned activities appropriate to the age, behavioral levels, and emotional readiness of the child served.
4. The day treatment service is in operation no less than 3 hours a day, five days a week.
5. Personnel provide adequate care and supervision at all times according to the developmental and clinical needs of the children served and such supervision includes:
 - A. One of more on-duty personnel providing continuous supervision for each group or unit, defined here as no more than four children.
 - B. Higher personnel/child served ratios during periods of greater activity,
 - C. Availability of additional personnel for emergencies or to meet the special needs of children served at busier or more stressful periods, and
 - D. Clean background screening investigations of all personnel yield and appropriate documentation of such in each personnel file.
6. Day treatment programs require parents or legal guardians to participate in the treatment program, when feasible, and the organization makes ongoing efforts to involve parents who refuse to participate in the treatment program.
7. The day treatment program's therapeutic orientation includes the expectation of family participation.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

1. Clinical personnel include:
 - A. Social workers with advanced degrees from accredited programs of social work education, with a specialty in clinical practice or with supervised post-graduate practice in the state in which the day treatment program is located, and/or
 - B. Other mental health or human services professionals with advanced degrees from an accredited institution and clinical training or experience, qualified according to the requirements of their respective disciplines and any applicable legal requirements for practice.
2. A licensed psychologist or psychiatrist with a doctorate from an accredited program in clinical or counseling psychology, and appropriate post-graduate experience provides psychological testing and direct treatment, as necessary, and is a member of the day treatment program's staff or is a consultant.
3. A board-certified psychiatrist participates in the development and implementation of the overall treatment program, in regular case review, and in direct services to children served as needed.
4. The day treatment program has established emergency procedures and has either a licensed physician available on-call during its hours of operation or has formal arrangements for emergency services with a nearby primary health care facility.
5. The day treatment program will provide a staff to child ratio of no more than 1 to 4 (one staff to every 4 children).
6. Personnel providing direct services shall possess:
 - A. Educational and experiential backgrounds that enable them to participate in the overall treatment program and to meet the emotional and developmental needs of the children served, and
 - B. Personal characteristics and temperament suitable for working with children with special needs.