

Children’s Network Standards Subgroup Recommendations (Rev 5/19/16)

Network Standards

(From model contract section 21.19 Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services)

“a) The Contractor will include a full array of mental health, Substance Use Disorder Services, and foster care providers OR combined licensure/designation providers in its networks, in sufficient numbers to assure accessibility to Benefit Package services for both children and adults, using either individual, appropriately licensed practitioners or New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) licensed programs and clinics.

b) The State defines mental health and Substance Use Disorder Services providers to include the following: Individual Practitioners, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists, Licensed Certified Social Workers, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Family and Marriage Counselors, OMH and OASAS Programs and Clinics, and providers of mental health and/or Chemical Dependence Services certified or licensed pursuant to Article 31 or 32 of the Mental Hygiene Law, as appropriate.”

“Business Days” referenced within the document are defined as — Traditional workdays including Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. State holidays are excluded and traditional work hours are 8 am–6 pm. Minimum network standards for each service type are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Minimum Network Standards by Service Type

Note: In many areas, these minimum standards will not be adequate to meet member’s need for access. Satisfactory systems of care, including Participating Provider networks and referral processes sufficient to ensure that emergency services, including crisis services, can be provided in a timely manner and in the most integrated settings appropriate to meet the Enrollee’s needs.

Service	Urban Counties	Rural Counties ¹
OMH		
Outpatient Clinic – licensed to serve children and adolescents	The higher of 50% of all licensed clinics or minimum of 2 per county	The higher of 50% of all licensed clinics or minimum of 2 per county
Outpatient Clinic – licensed to only serve children	The higher of 50% of all licensed clinics or minimum of 2 per county	The higher of 50% of all licensed clinics or minimum of 2 per county
Outpatient Clinic – with 0-5 specificity reflected on Operating Certificate	All in county	All in region

¹ NYS public health law defines a rural county as any county having a population of less than 200,000.

Service	Urban Counties	Rural Counties ¹
State Operated Outpatient Programs	All in county	All in region
Article 28 Hospitals – licensed for children only	All in county (if none, then in neighboring county)	All in region
Partial Hospitalization	2 per county where available	All in region where available
State Psychiatric Centers - only serving children	All in region	All in region
Residential Treatment Facility	All in region	All in region
Day Treatment and IPRT serving youth	50% of Day Treatment/IPRT, contracting with IPRT first	50% of Day Treatment/IPRT, contracting with IPRT first
Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program & 9.39 ERs – child specific	All per county	All per region
OASAS		
Opioid Treatment Programs	All per county and for NYC – all in the City	All per region
Inpatient Treatment	2 per county	2 per region
Detoxification (including Inpatient Hospital Detoxification, Inpatient Medically Supervised Detoxification, and Medically Supervised Outpatient Withdrawal	2 per county	2 per region
Outpatient Clinic	The higher of 50% of all licensed clinics or minimum of 2 per county	The higher of 50% of all licensed clinics or minimum of 2 per county
Rehabilitation services for residential SUD treatment supports (RRSY)	All per county	All per region
Buprenorphine prescribers	All licensed prescribers serving Medicaid patients	All licensed prescribers serving Medicaid patients
OCFS Licensed Foster Care Agencies (in development)	TBD	TBD

Service	Urban Counties	Rural Counties ¹
Cross Agency – State Plan Services	Urban	Rural
Crisis Intervention	Based on provider availability all within MCO service area.	Based on provider availability all within MCO service area
Community Psychiatric Supports and Treatment (CPST)	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Other Licensed Practitioner (reference to manual)	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Family Peer Support Services	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Youth Peer Advocacy and Training	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Psychosocial Rehabilitation	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Cross Agency HCBS Services	Urban	Rural
HCBS Care Coordination (for children who may not meet Health Home criteria)	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Caregiver/Family Supports and Services	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Skill Building	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum

Service	Urban Counties	Rural Counties ¹
	of 2 per county where available	of 2 per region where available
Crisis Respite	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Planned Respite	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Prevocational Services	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Supported Employment	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Community Advocacy and Support	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Habilitation	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per county where available	higher of 50% of all programs or minimum of 2 per region where available
Adaptive and Assistive Equipment and Accessibility Modifications	2 Fiscal Intermediaries per county	2 Fiscal Intermediaries per region

Appointment Availability – define difference for intake if relevant and for service provision to begin. Be clear on business or calendar days.

The Contractor shall comply with the appointment availability standards and definitions in the model contract. These are general standards and are not intended to supersede sound clinical judgment as to the necessity for care and services on a more expedient basis, when judged clinically necessary and appropriate. Table 2 illustrates how appointment availability standards apply to each BH service type.

Table 2. Appointment Availability Standard by BH Service Type

Service Type	Emergency	Urgent	Non-urgent MH/SUD	BH Specialist	Follow-up to emergency or hospital discharge	Follow-up to residential services or detention discharge	Foster Care TBD
MH Outpatient Clinic		Within 24 hrs	Within 1 wk		Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request	
IPRT				2-4 wks			
Partial Hospitalization					Within 5 days of request		
Inpatient Psychiatric Services	Upon presentation						
CPEP	Upon presentation						
OASAS Outpatient Clinic		Within 24 hrs	Within 1 wk of request		Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request	
Detoxification	Upon presentation						
SUD Inpatient Rehab	Upon presentation	Within 24 hrs					
Opioid Treatment Program		Within 24 hrs	Within 1 week of request		Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request	
Residential Rehabilitation	Upon presentation	Within 24 hours		2-4 wks	Within 5 days of request	Within 5 days of request	

Service Type	Emergency	Urgent	Non-urgent MH/SUD	BH Specialist	Follow-up to emergency or hospital discharge	Follow-up to residential services or detention discharge	Foster Care TBD
Services for Youth (RRSY)							
Cross Agency State Plan Services							
State Plan Services							
Crisis Intervention	Within 1 hour				Within 24 hrs of MCI response		within 1 hour
Community Psychiatric Supports and Treatment (CPST) – intake/assessment/treatment plan within 72 hrs		Within 24 hrs (for intensive in home and crisis response services under definition)	Within 5 business days of intake		Within 72 hours of discharge	Within 72 hrs	Within 72 hrs
Other Licensed Practitioner (refer to manual)		Within 24 hrs of request	Within 7 days of intake	Within 7 days of request	Within 72 hours of request	Within 72 hrs of request	Within 72 hrs of request
Family Peer Support Services		Within 24 hrs of request	Within 1 week of request		Within 72 hours days of request	Within 72 hrs of request	
Youth Peer Advocacy and Training		Within 24 hrs of request	Within 1 week of request		Within 72 hours of request	Within 72 hrs of request	

Service Type	Emergency	Urgent	Non-urgent MH/SUD	BH Specialist	Follow-up to emergency or hospital discharge	Follow-up to residential services or detention discharge	Foster Care TBD
Psychosocial Rehabilitation		Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request	Within 72 hours of request	Within 72 hours of request	Within 72 hours of request
Cross Agency HCBS Services							
HCBS Care Coordination (for children who may not meet Health Home criteria)	Within 24 hrs	Within 72 hrs	Within 5 business days of request		Within 72 hrs (or discharge from residential)	Within 72 hrs (header in column not appropriate for children – juv deten)	Within 24 hrs
Caregiver/Family Supports and Services			Within 5 business days of request		Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request
Skill Building			Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request			
Crisis Respite	Within 24 hrs of request	Within 24 hrs of request			Within 24 hrs of request	Within 24 hrs of request	Within 24 hrs of request
Planned Respite			Within 7 days of request	Within 7 days of request	7 days of request	Within 7 days of request	Within 72 hours of request

Service Type	Emergency	Urgent	Non-urgent MH/SUD	BH Specialist	Follow-up to emergency or hospital discharge	Follow-up to residential services or detention discharge	Foster Care TBD
Prevocational Services			Within 2 weeks of request	Within 2 weeks of request			
Supported Employment			Within 2 weeks of request	Within 2 weeks of request			
Community Advocacy and Support			Within 5 business days of request	Within 5 business days of request			
Habilitation			Within 2 weeks	Within 2 weeks			
Adaptive and Assistive Equipment			Within 2 weeks of request	Within 2 weeks of request			
Accessibility Modifications			Within 2 weeks of request	Within 2 weeks of request			

Travel Time Standards

Plans must conduct geographic access analyses per the standards in Section 15.5.c of the MCO Model Contract specific to each BH category of service. Travel time/distance to specialty care, hospitals, and behavioral health providers shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes/thirty (30) miles from the member’s residence.

Transport time and distance in rural areas to specialty care, hospitals, and mental health providers may exceed standard thirty (30) minutes/thirty (30) miles from the member’s residence if based on the community standard for accessing care or if by member’s choice.

Initial Network Development in Rural Counties

A. Rural County Definition

For the purpose of network development, a rural county is defined as one with a population of fewer than 200,000 inhabitants.

Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates are rural counties.

B. Region Definition

For the purpose of determining the adequacy of the Contractor’s network in rural counties and for Essential Community Behavioral Health Providers, a region is defined as the catchment area beyond the border of a county, which includes the other counties of the State designated Regional Planning Consortium (RPC) region.

Regional Planning Consortium Regions	
Western NY	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming
Finger Lakes	Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates
Southern Tier	Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Tioga, Tompkins
Central NY	Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego
Mohawk Valley	Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie
North Country	Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren, Washington
Tug Hill Seaway	Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence
Capital Region	Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer
Mid-Hudson	Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester
Long Island	Nassau, Suffolk
New York City	Kings, Queens, Richmond, Bronx, New York

C. Meeting Network Requirements in the Case of Insufficient County Providers

If the providers in the county are insufficient to meet network requirements, MCOs must first contract with providers in neighboring counties to meet network requirements. If this is still insufficient, the MCO must then contract with providers within the RPC region. Consistent with current DOH approval processes, if the providers in the RPC region are insufficient to meet the minimum network requirement for the service, or the demand in the service area, the MCO must contract with providers in the next contiguous service area. For example, if an MCO service area includes Rensselaer County, and the Capital Region RPC has an insufficient number of Opioid Treatment Programs to meet the demand of the enrollees, then the MCO must contract with providers from the Mohawk Valley Region, North Country Region or Mid-Hudson Region, or any combination of regions, to build a sufficient network.

D. Reimbursement of Non-Participating Providers in the Case of Inadequate Network

MCOs whose networks are inadequate, whether due to an insufficient number of contracts or an insufficient number of available appointments, will be required, upon enrollee request, to permit enrollees eligible for services to receive services at a non-participating provider and reimburse those providers at no less than the Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) rate.

Glossary

BH professional (BHP) — An individual with an advanced degree in the mental health or addictions field who holds **an** active, unrestricted license to practice independently or an individual with an associate’s **degree** or higher in nursing who is a registered nurse with three years of experience in a mental health or addictions setting. Throughout the request for qualifications, the BHP will be specified as either a New York State or U.S. BHP. When specified as a New York State BHP, the individual must hold an active, unrestricted **license** to practice independently in New York State or be a registered nurse in New York State. When specified as a U.S. BHP, the individual may meet the licensure requirement with an active, unrestricted license to practice independently or be a registered nurse in any state in the U.S.

“Emergency Services” means health care procedures, treatments or services needed to evaluate or stabilize an Emergency Medical Condition including psychiatric stabilization and medical detoxification from drugs or alcohol

“Urgently Needed Services” means covered services that are not Emergency Services as defined in this Section, provided when an Enrollee is temporarily absent from the Contractor’s service area, when the services are medically necessary and immediately required: (1) as a result of an unforeseen illness, injury, or condition; and (2) it was not reasonable given the circumstances to obtain the services through the Contractor’s MMC or FHPlus Participating Provider

