

**SWMBH Operating Policy 4.11**

<b>Subject:</b> SMI and SED Specialty Services Eligibility		<b>Accountability:</b> Utilization Management	<b>Effective Date:</b> 1/1/2019	<b>Pages:</b> 5	
<b>REQUIRED BY:</b> BBA Section _____ PIHP Contract Section _____ NCQA Standard _____ Other __ Medicaid Provider Manual BHIDD Chapter, Section 1.6			Last Reviewed Date:	Past Reviewed Dates:	
<b>LINE OF BUSINESS:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specialty Waiver (B/C) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Michigan <input type="checkbox"/> SUD Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> SUD Block Grant <input type="checkbox"/> MI Health Link Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____		<b>APPLICATION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWMBH Staff and Ops <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participant CMHSPs <input type="checkbox"/> SUD Providers <input type="checkbox"/> MH / DD providers <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		Last Revised Date:	Past Revised Dates:
Approved: <u><i>Morgan 10/21/18</i></u> <u><i>Courtney Wickham 11/2/19</i></u> Date: _____			Required Reviewers: Medical Director Director of Clinical Quality Chief Administrative Officer		

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**I. Purpose**

Under “Beneficiary Eligibility (1.6)” of the Medicaid Provider Manual, Medicaid Health Plans are responsible for coverage of services to individuals who experience or demonstrate “mild to moderate psychiatric symptoms or signs of sufficient intensity to cause subjective distress or mildly disordered behavior.” The Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP)/Community Mental Health Service Partner (CMHSP) system is responsible for coverage of services to individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbance (SED). This policy provides symptom severity methodology and procedures for identifying the associated responsibility party to the beneficiary for services Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries.

**II. Policy**

PIHP Medicaid and Healthy Michigan specialty service funds cannot be used to provide services to individuals with mild to moderate psychiatric signs and symptoms. Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) will utilize screening tools with defined thresholds to determine eligibility for PIHP Medicaid specialty behavioral health services for individuals with SED and SMI.

**III. Standards and Guidelines**

- A. Prior to completing bio-psychosocial intake assessments at initial service requests, SWMBH and SWMBH Community Mental Health (CMHs) utilize standardized screening instruments to assess eligibility for PIHP services. This screening process is typically done via phone, but may occur in person if preceding the biopsychosocial assessment. SWMBH’s standardized screening instruments are also used during biopsychosocial assessment updates for ongoing service eligibility determination.

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1. The Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services (LOCUS) is used with adults with mental illness. Specifically, the LOCUS Recommended Disposition is used to make the initial determination for PIHP service eligibility. A supplementary set of questions is used to differentiate mild/moderate from severe need for individuals with a LOCUS Recommended Disposition of Level 2 (see below, section III.B.c.).
2. The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) is used for children and youth with emotional disturbances ages 7-17.
3. The Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale (PECFAS) is used with children ages 4-6. Specific PECFAS scores have not been identified for use as part of the determination of functional impairment at this time.

### B. Thresholds for Adults with Mental Illness.

1. Severe need (subject to confirmation from biopsychosocial assessment):
  - a. LOCUS Recommended Disposition Level of 3, 4, 5, or 6, or
  - b. LOCUS Recommended Disposition Level of 2 with need for specialty behavioral supports and services as evidenced by meeting Michigan Mental Health code definition for SMI (see below, III.B.c.).
2. Mild/Moderate need:
  - a. LOCUS Recommended Disposition Level 0 or 1, or
  - b. LOCUS Recommended Disposition Level of 2 but does not meet Michigan Mental Health code definition for SMI.
3. Determination of Severe Mental Illness for Individuals with LOCUS Recommended Disposition Level 2. LOCUS Level 2 includes individuals who may have mild to moderate needs that can be addressed through short-term therapy with community-based providers and/or support from a primary care physician; as well as individuals with severe needs due to deficits in functional abilities that substantially interfere with major life activities, which require specialty behavioral health supports and services. The following shall be considered when making coverage determination for individuals with LOCUS Recommended Disposition Level 2.
  - a. When an adult's LOCUS Recommended Disposition is Level 2, the evaluator conducting the screening (or LOCUS update for annual assessment updates) must make a clinical determination regarding the individual's eligibility for specialty behavioral health services, as defined by meeting the Michigan Mental Health Code definition for Serious Mental Illness. Questions to be considered in making the determination include:
    1. Has this person received CMH services, including crisis services or inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, within past year?
    2. Is the person homeless or do they need assistance managing other social determinants of health?
    3. Is this person having their first episode of psychosis/schizophrenia?
    4. Does the person have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder or schizophrenia?
    5. Is this person on an injectable antipsychotic?
4. Once the screening disposition is made, the rationale must be clearly documented in the LOCUS document.

### C. Thresholds for Youth with Emotional Disturbance, ages 7-17.

1. Severe need:

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- a. CAFAS total score of 50 or greater (using the eight subscale scores), or
  - b. Two 20s on any of the first eight subscales of the CAFAS, or
  - c. One 30 on any subscale of the CAFAS, except for substance abuse only.
2. Mild/Moderate need:
- a. CAFAS total score of less than 50 (using the eight subscale scores), and
  - b. No more than one 20 on any of the first eight subscales of the CAFAS, and
  - c. No 30 on any subscale of the CAFAS, except for substance abuse only.
3. Once the screening disposition is made, the rationale must be clearly documented in the screening document.
- D. Thresholds for Youth with Emotional Disturbance, ages 4-6. The PECFAS shall be used to inform the screening or assessment disposition for Youth with Emotional Disturbance ages 4-6, but there is no specific PECFAS threshold that indicates eligibility for PIHP services. Eligibility for PIHP services for youth with emotional disturbances ages 4-6 is based on the child's diagnosis and functional status, as outlined in the Michigan Mental Health Code definition for SED (see Definitions section).
- E. Individuals presenting with severe needs, per the LOCUS or CAFAS screening assessment thresholds above, are scheduled for a full biopsychosocial assessment at the CMH to assess specific specialty service needs and preferences.
- F. For all population areas, screening tool domain and total scores, and rationale for PIHP service eligibility (or lack thereof) shall be clearly documented in the screening documentation, and in the biopsychosocial assessment if applicable.
- G. Individuals presenting with mild/moderate needs, per the LOCUS or CAFAS screening assessment thresholds above, are referred for behavioral health services managed by their Medicaid Health Plan, Medicaid fee-for-service, and/or to their primary care physician or other community resources as applicable. Notice of Adverse Action is provided.
1. For individuals transitioning out of PIHP services who are no longer experiencing severe mental illness or emotional disturbance, PIHP services may be provided during a transition period of no longer than 90 days following the date of the assessment indicating mild/moderate needs. During this time the CMH will assist the individual in accessing necessary community supports.
- H. Exception Process. When the individual requesting services disagrees with the screening disposition (mild/moderate vs severe), the following will occur.
1. Full bio-psychosocial assessment is offered.
  2. CAFAS/LOCUS updated as part of bio-psychosocial assessment.
  3. If CAFAS/LOCUS disposition is still incongruent with clinical needs, clinician will clearly document rationale for exception in the integrated summary of the bio-psychosocial assessment.
  4. If services are being recommended with mild/moderate CAFAS/LOCUS score, the service request will appear as an "exception" for authorization purposes, which will be handled as a typical Level of Care Exception (see SWMBH Levels of Care Policy for details on Level of Care Exceptions).
  5. If services are being denied, Notice of Adverse Action is provided, and the individual is assisted in linking to other community supports and services.
- I. Other considerations:

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1. If a young adult 18-21 years old requests EPSDT services, those services will be provided based on eligibility for the specific service being requested, if LOCUS/SMI eligibility is not met.
2. Individuals experiencing crisis residential episodes of 14 days or longer must be assigned a case manager who will be involved in treatment and follow-up care, regardless of CAFAS/SED or LOCUS/SMI eligibility.

### IV. Definitions

- A. **Assessment.** A face-to-face comprehensive clinical evaluation completed by an appropriately licensed and credentialed professional that obtains appropriate and necessary information about each individual seeking public behavioral health services. The assessment includes clinical consideration of the individuals' needs and informs the goals and treatment plan through the person-centered planning process. The information obtained in the assessment is used to match an individual's need with the appropriate care setting, care level and service intervention.
- B. **LOCUS Recommended Disposition.** The recommended level of care generated by the LOCUS decision tree (paper version) or LOCUS algorithm (electronic version).
- C. **Screening.** Telephonic, face-to-face or computer-assisted process for determining financial\* and clinical eligibility (including level of care needed) using a population-specific level-of-care tool where available, for specialty supports and services resulting in referral to CMHSP, other PIHP providers, Medicaid Health Plans or other community resources. \*Financial eligibility does not apply to individuals requesting I/DD or DCCA services
- D. **Serious Emotional Disturbance:** As described in Section 330.1100c of the Michigan Mental Health Code, a serious emotional disturbance is a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder affecting a minor that exists or has existed during the past year for a period of time sufficient to meet diagnostic criteria specified in the most recent diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association and approved by the MDHHS, and that has resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the minor's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities. The following disorders are included only if they occur in conjunction with another diagnosable serious emotional disturbance:
- 1) A substance use disorder
  - 2) A developmental disorder
  - 3) A "V" code in the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders
- E. **Serious Mental Illness:** As described in Section 330.1100c of the Michigan Mental Health Code, a serious mental illness is a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder affecting an adult that exists or has existed within the past year for a period of time sufficient to meet diagnostic criteria specified in the most recent diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association and approved by the MDHHS and that has resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. Serious mental illness includes dementia with delusions, dementia with depressed mood, and dementia with behavioral disturbances, but does not include any other dementia unless the dementia occurs in conjunction with another diagnosable serious mental illness.

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### **V. References**

- A. **LOCUS Training Manual: Level of Care Utilization System for Psychiatric and Addiction Services Adult Version 2000.** Wesley Sowers, M.D. Robert Benacci, M.A.
- B. **MDHHS/Medicaid Health Plan Contract, Appendix 7.** Medicaid Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Authorization and Payment Responsibility Grid
- C. **MDHHS/PIHP Contract, Attachment P.4.7.4.** Technical Requirement for SED Children Regarding: 1) Medicaid Eligibility Criteria for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance; and 2) Establishing General Fund Priority for Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance.
- D. **Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual, Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services Chapter,** Section 1.6 Beneficiary Eligibility.
- E. **Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual, Healthy Michigan Plan Chapter,** Section 5.6 Behavioral Health Services.

### **VI. Attachments**

- A. None

