



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**Subject:** Public Notice for Behavioral Health Crisis Services

**Add'l info:** The Maryland Department of Health is amending the State Plan to include coverage for the mobile crisis team service and the behavioral health crisis stabilization center service within the state's Other Diagnostic, Screening, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services benefit. The projected effective date of both services is July 1, 2023.

The mobile crisis team (MCT) service is the provision of professional, same-day intervention for children or adults who are experiencing crises and whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness, substance abuse, or both, including individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis that is secondary to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental or intellectual disability, brain injury, or any combination thereof. MCT services are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week and must be culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate. This service is provided to a beneficiary in the community, outside of a hospital or other facility setting, and is intended to reduce law enforcement involvement and avoidable emergency department visits for individuals in crisis.

The behavioral health crisis stabilization center (BHCSC) service is the provision of short-term crisis intervention and stabilization in a non-hospital based facility that is open 24 hours, seven days a week and staffed to manage the full array of behavioral health emergencies including alcohol and substance abuse, symptoms of mental illness, and emotional distress. The BHCSC service allows for a maximum stay of 23 hours per individual served and provides evaluation, crisis de-escalation and stabilization, medication-assisted treatment (if clinically indicated), observation, safety and resource planning, and post-discharge care coordination.

MCT services will be reimbursed at a rate of \$135.80 per hour. Post-crisis follow-up services will be reimbursed at \$33.95 per 15 minutes. BHCSC services will be reimbursed at a rate of \$27.05 per hour up to 6 hours, switching over to a rate of \$649.27 per day for beyond 6 hours. Note: Proposed COMAR 10.09.16 Behavioral Health Crisis Services, which printed in 50:4 Md. R. 136—139 (February 24, 2023), does not include the \$649.27 daily rate. This rate will be added as a final action amendment and codified in the adopted regulations.

The Department anticipates a total fiscal impact for both services of \$39,122,032 for fiscal year 2024. Of the total impact, the projected cost for MCT services is \$17,565,306, which is subject to an enhanced federal match of 85 percent (\$14,930,510 in federal funds; \$2,634,796 in general funds). The projected cost for BHCSC services is \$21,556,726, which is subject to a 63.02 percent blended federal match (\$13,585,049 federal funds; \$7,971,677 general funds).

For questions about the notice please contact Tyler Colomb by email at [tyler.colomb@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.colomb@maryland.gov).

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