



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 January 1, 2024.

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 or 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.

Behavioral health crisis stabilization center (BHSC) service is the provision of short-term crisis intervention and stabilization in a facility 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 BHSC 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 \$111.80 per 15 minute increment. Mobile crisis follow-up outreach services will be reimbursed at a rate of \$111.80 per 15 minute increment. BHSC services will be reimbursed at a rate of \$721.21 per diem.

The Department anticipates a total fiscal impact for both services of \$20,746,636 for state fiscal year 2024. Of the total impact, the projected cost for MCT services is \$8,782,653, which is subject to an enhanced federal match of 85 percent (\$7,465,255 in federal funds; \$1,317,398 in general funds). The projected cost for BHSC services is \$11,963,983, which is subject to a 63.02 percent blended federal match (\$7,539,703 federal funds; \$4,424,281 general funds).

For questions about the notice please contact Tyler Colomb by email at tyler.colomb@maryland.gov.

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