



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Addictions and Mental Health Division

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DATE: September 7, 2010

TO: AMH Stakeholders

FROM: Richard L. Harris
Assistant Director

RE: Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) effective September 1, 2010

As of September 1, 2010 the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) became effective. AMHI is designed to promote more effective utilization of current capacity in facility based treatment settings, increase care coordination and increase accountability at a local and state level. It is also designed to promote the availability and quality of individualized community based services and supports so that adults with mental illness are served in the least restrictive environment possible and use of long term institutional care is minimized.

To accomplish this, AMH is transferring many of the responsibilities regarding utilization of licensed facility based treatment settings to the Mental Health Organizations (MHO). Starting on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 the Mental Health Organizations (MHO) will be responsible for assisting individuals in transitioning from one living setting to another. This includes assisting individuals in the discharge process and transitioning from the state hospitals.

While many of the details are still being ironed out, effective immediately, referral packets from the state hospital will be sent to the MHO long term care contacts and not the Extended Care Management Unit. MHOs will be responsible for all referrals to long term settings both in and out of their traditional region. This includes residential capacity formerly known as "ECMU beds" and "community beds."

AMH staff will provide technical assistance and monitoring to ensure that individuals continue to move smoothly through the system. Each MHO has been assigned a primary AMHI liaison to assist in this process.

If you need this letter in alternate format, please call 503-945-5763 (Voice) or 800-375-2863 (TTY)

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Additionally, MHOs will be working with the Community Mental Health Programs (CMHP) on payment and Contract Amendment Requests (CARs). AMH will accept CARs from the CMHPs and directly contracted providers. CMHPs and providers should consult with the MHOs before sending CARs to AMH. AMH will continue to review CARs to determine if all other methods and resources have been explored prior to the submission of the CAR.

Providers should work with the MHOs on the Plan of Care (POC). When submitting the POC and Prior Authorization forms, the provider will need to certify that the MHO has been involved in the planning process.

As we move forward with AMHI, we will continue to send updates about detailed process and policy changes. We will also continue to post information on the DHS/AMHI web page. Please take the time to sign up for the automatic email alerts on that AMHI web page at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/adult-initiative/main.shtml>.

Thank you for your patience during this time of transition. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Jane-ellen Weidanz at jane-ellen.weidanz@state.or.us or 503-945-9725 or Ralph Summers at ralph.h.summers@state.or.us.