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OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Date: November 3, 2016

To: Certified Mental Health Outpatient Treatment Programs
Certified Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Treatment Programs

From: Rhonda Turner, Manager of Certification and Program Monitoring

Subject: Certification Standards Regarding Licensed Diagnosticians and Crisis Services

Licensed Staff Availability: As behavioral health continues to strive toward integration with the broader healthcare field, it is vital that comprehensive assessments be conducted by qualified professionals.

As of December 1, 2016, the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), Department of Mental Health, will no longer grant certification to an agency that does not have a licensed diagnostician on staff to render a diagnosis as part of the assessment process, [see 9 CSR 10-7.030 (2) (A) 12].

For those agencies currently certified as either mental health outpatient treatment or substance use outpatient treatment programs (this includes CIP programs), DBH staff will cite this first as a recommendation during your next renewal certification. However, at the time of the subsequent certification renewal, failure to meet this requirement will result in a deficiency.

Crisis Services: Per the core standard "9 CSR 10-7.030 (4) Crisis Assistance and Intervention," crisis assistance and intervention must be provided and available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, and must include face-to-face intervention, if necessary. This can be accomplished by providing this service directly or utilizing another agency's crisis intervention services. However, the following requirements will need to be evident in order to determine compliance with this requirement:

- For agencies planning to provide crisis assistance and intervention directly by agency staff, there must be more than one staff designated to respond to crisis situations to ensure coverage during leaves of absence; and

- For agencies choosing to utilize another agency's crisis intervention services (instead of providing these services independently), there must be a memorandum of understanding, a formal agreement, or contractual relationship between the crisis intervention agency and the mental health/substance use disorder treatment agency to allow for exchange of information and coordination of crisis services.

Please contact me at Rhonda.Turner@dmh.mo.gov or 573-526-1572 if you have questions.

RT:ldn

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