

Mental Health Provider Minimum Qualifications

Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program Specialty Mental Health Services

Open Enrollment

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services (BHS), in compliance with the statewide Continuum of Care Reform outlined in AB 403, has developed minimum qualifications (MQs) for all Rate Classification Level (RCL) Group Homes transitioning to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) that are seeking to contract with BHS to provide specialty mental health services, or new legal entities seeking to become STRTP's within Sacramento County. Please see the MQs on pages 2 and 3 of this document.

Important information:

- Beginning July 1, 2017, RCL Group Homes transitioning to STRTPs that are seeking to contract with BHS to provide specialty mental health services must meet the MQs whether or not they currently have a contract with BHS to provide these services.
- Full compliance with the MQs can be achieved at any time during the fiscal year; however, the MQs must be met before a provider submits a request to contract with BHS to provide specialty mental health services.
- An executed contract with BHS, along with meeting California DHCS requirements for Mental Health Program approval, will qualify the provider to be reimbursed for all specialty mental health services provided during a client's STRTP stay via the client's Medi-Cal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment benefit,
- All executed contracts will be one year in length, following Sacramento County's fiscal year calendar.

RCL Group Homes requesting a specialty mental health services contract with Sacramento County BHS should respond to the STRTP Open Enrollment process by contacting Paul Vossen with questions or to submit MQ documentation (vossenp@saccounty.net/916-876-9799).

Sacramento County BHS STRTP MQs:

1. Provider must have either:
 - a. an existing interim California Department of Social Services license to operate as an STRTP, **or**
 - b. an approved Group Home extension *and* must have either submitted their STRTP program plan to Sacramento County for letter of approval or submitted their program plan to the California Department of Social Services.
2. Provider must:
 - a. either be nationally accredited per California Department of Social Services guidelines, **or**
 - b. have an accreditation target date of one year or less.
3. The facility serving Sacramento County foster youth (Probation or Child Welfare/CPS), must be located within Sacramento County.
4. Provider must have a letter of recommendation from Sacramento County Probation or Sacramento County Child Welfare (CPS) Department, dated within the month prior to the contract request.
5. Provider must not have simultaneous holds on placement from Sacramento County Probation or Sacramento County Child Welfare (CPS).
6. Provider must provide evidence of financial stability, per Sacramento County guidelines, by meeting items 1. a, b, and c of the minimum score criteria:
 1. Submitted (independent audit) Financial statements will be rated on:
 - a. Liquidity ratios
 - i. Current (current assets divided by current liability)
 - ii. Quick (equal to cash plus government securities plus accounts receivable divided by total current liabilities)
 - b. Leverage ratio: Debt ratio (total liability divided total assets)
 - c. Working capital: Total current assets minus total current liabilities
7. Provider must be willing to serve children who have been commercially sexually exploited.
8. Provider must have a demonstrated commitment to not reject or eject youth from service because of the severity or nature of their needs.

Sacramento County BHS STRTP MQs, continued:

9. Demonstrate the ability to become Medi-Cal site certified prior to the execution of the contract.
10. Provider must be able to meet the following staffing requirements:
 - a. California Board Certified Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist on staff or on contract
 - b. Licensed clinical head of service (Ph.D., LMFT, LCSW, etc.)

- c. Designated quality management staff for continuous quality improvement and Medi-Cal billing/claiming integrity
 - d. Clinical oversight/supervision manager
 - e. Additional clinical staffing requirements as stipulated by California Department of Health Care Services
11. Provider must have the technology infrastructure in place, per the Sacramento County Department of Health Services guidelines, to successfully bill and claim specialty mental health services using Avatar -- the Sacramento County mental health services treatment tracking system
(https://dhs.saccounty.net/BHS/Avatar/Documents/GD_Avatar_CWSMinimumSpecs.pdf)