

**HIV Health Services Planning Council
Sacramento EMA**

SERVICE STANDARDS

Policy No.	SSC 14
Date Approved:	7/28/99
Dates Revised:	7/23/03

Subject: **MENTAL HEALTH STANDARDS**

Descriptions:

Mental health services: Consists of individual, couple, family and group counseling, as well as psychiatric care. The focus of service provision should be on quality and continuity of care. The intent of services is to support access to, and utilization of, available HIV medical care.

Policies:

1. Ryan White Title I & II funding is to be used for HIV/AIDS medical services and for psycho-social and support services which significantly improve access and adherence to such medical services. In the case of Mental Health services, Ryan White Title I & II funding may also pay for grief/bereavement services for family/significant others. As such, any non-grief/bereavement Mental Health services which are provided with Ryan White Title I & II funding ("RW Agencies") will be fully integrated with each client's medical care.

2. Ryan White Title I & II funding is to be expended in a cost effective, equitable manner which is based upon verified client need and encourages self-empowerment of clients. Due to the time-sensitive nature of mental health treatment and the fact that these services are best delivered during a narrow window allowed by self-referral, patients presenting through self-referral will be permitted. Services paid for with Ryan White Title I & II funds shall be delivered only after verification of eligibility and payer of last resort. Mental Health services which are not initiated through self-referral shall be administered or referred through Case Management services or medical providers. All services shall be provided in accordance with the allocation priorities and directives adopted by the HIV Planning Council.

3. In accordance with the above:
 - A. If it is determined that a client is eligible for Ryan White mental health funded services, the following guidelines will apply:
 - i. Assessment/diagnosis will be provided by the treating provider in 1 –3 one (1) hour sessions.
 - ii. Following assessment, the treating provider will develop a Treatment Plan, with the goal of enabling the client to access or remain in medical care.

- iii. If the treating provider is not a licensed therapist, the treating provider will consult with a licensed therapist on an ongoing basis regarding the Treatment Plan.
 - B. A client may be seen for crisis intervention services if the client presents with dangerous behaviors, regardless of the cause (e.g. HIV-based, dual diagnosis issues, etc.) or upon the referral of an MD requesting diagnostic clarification or immediate intervention for as long as deemed necessary to maintain safety of the client or others.
 - C. Mental health service will be provided by clinicians knowledgeable about HIV and people living with HIV (PLWH), as well as:
 - i. Pediatrics when treating pediatric PLWH;
 - ii. Other special client related issues/needs, as appropriate.
 - D. Services for family and significant others of PLWH may be necessary to support the clients in managing their health. Services for family and significant others are offered:
 - i. On a time-limited/goal focused basis, generally regarding education, support of, or care for the individual living with HIV;
 - ii. In situations of grief/bereavement:
 - a. Existing clients will be offered treatment for a limited term (based on the client's plan of care) until another resource is located;
 - b. As determined appropriate by a licensed mental health provider, new clients will be treated for a limited term (based on the client's plan of care) until another resource is located.
 - E. Group sessions may be offered as part of, or as an alternative to, individual treatment plans. Referrals shall be made available to clients seeking group services when slots are not available in the existing group.
 - F. All providers of mental health services will comply with Board of Behavioral Sciences treatment regulations.
4. RW Agencies may at any time submit to the RW Fiscal Agent requests for interpretation of these or any other Services Standards adopted by the HIV Health Services Planning Council, based on the unique healthcare needs of a client or on unique barriers to accessing healthcare services which may be experienced by a client.
5. RW Agencies shall provide a means by which Case Managers can obtain in-servicing and on-call advice related to client medical and other healthcare needs.
6. Coordination with other components of the Ryan White system of care is critical.
7. All Ryan White providers of mental health services must have an internal grievance process in place. Each client must receive a copy of the agency's grievance policy. A signed copy of the grievance policy must be maintained in the clients' file. Information about how to access this process must be posted conspicuously in public areas of the agency. It must include provisions for informing clients of its

existence, and how to begin the process. Clients also have the right to file a grievance with appropriate state licensing agencies (i.e. Board of Behavioral Sciences).

8. All Ryan White providers of mental health services must have a quality assurance program and plan in place that is in compliance with the EMA Quality Management / Continuous Quality Improvement Plan and requirements set forth by the Quality Management Manager of the Fiscal Administrative Agent.

Adopted: _____
Craig Spatola, Chair