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North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC

Section 1500 – Clinical: High Intensity Services - State Only Funded Program of Assertive
Community Treatment (PACT)

Authorizing Source: HCA Contract

Approved by: Executive Director Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#) Signature:

POLICY # 1563.00

SUBJECT: HIGH INTENSITY SERVICES – STATE ONLY FUNDED PROGRAM OF ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (PACT)

PURPOSE

To define State only funded High Intensity/PACT procedures, eligibility requirements and admission and discharge processes in this fidelity model program.

POLICY

The North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) has PACT oversight in four (4) service areas: Island, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties. Individuals referred to PACT may come from any of the North Sound BH-ASO's five (5) counties but they must live in the PACT service area to receive PACT services.

PACT teams in the North Sound BH-ASO region comply with Washington State PACT Program Standards as a minimum set of regulations in addition to other applicable state and federal regulations.

PACT is a person-centered, recovery-oriented team model of service delivery. The PACT teams have a multi-disciplinary approach and provide the majority of recovery services that individuals need.

Referrals for State only Funded PACT services will be accepted based on availability of State Funds (refer to policy 1574).

Individuals eligible for State only funded PACT services will be initially authorized for services for 90 days. Review for continuing stay and reauthorization will occur every 90 days. The PACT Team will be responsible to continually work to access Medicaid on behalf of individuals.

PROCEDURES

Eligibility Criteria

1. Individuals must be discharging from Western State Hospital (WSH) and meet criteria for state only funding.
2. Individuals admitted to PACT must have a current diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness, be experiencing severe symptoms and have significant impairments. The individuals must also experience continuous high service needs, functional impairments and have difficulty effectively utilizing traditional office-based services or other less intensive community-based programs.
3. Priority is given to people with schizophrenia, other psychotic disorders (e.g., schizoaffective disorder) and bipolar disorder. Individuals with a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD), mental

- retardation, brain injury, or personality disorder are not clinically appropriate for PACT services.
4. Individuals must have a current Level of Care of 4, 5, or 6, per the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS), in order to be considered for admission. For those individuals for whom it is not possible to include a current LOCUS level, the submitted documentation will be used to determine if it appears the individual needs level of care 4, 5, or 6.

Screening and Admission Process

Screening

1. In order to be eligible for the limited number of State funded PACT slots, individuals must meet the following three (3) criteria for State only PACT services:
 - a. Discharging or recently discharged from WSH;
 - b. Meet financial criteria for State Funding and do not have Medicaid; and
 - c. Completed clinical assessment that determines individual qualifies for PACT level services.
 - d. If currently in PACT, will meet a, b and c.
2. The financial screening criteria required for regional State funded PACT programs will be initiated by WSH liaisons, WSH discharge planners or PACT Program Managers. Financial screening forms are available on the North Sound BH-ASO website.
3. WSH liaisons, WSH discharge planners or PACT Program Managers will submit the Financial Screening form directly to North Sound BH-ASO. Referrals will be reviewed by North Sound BH-ASO for financial eligibility. North Sound will then advise WSH or PACT of available resources
4. After screening, if financial eligibility is not met and/or there is no current PACT slot available, individuals may be referred to other more appropriate resources, either by the WSH Liaison, PACT Program Manager or North Sound BH-ASO staff.
5. Individuals could be reconsidered at a later time, if still meeting the above criteria.

Assessment

1. For current Western State cases, eligible referrals will be sent to the PACT Team Leader from the WSH Liaison or WSH discharge planner to determine whether or not the individual meets minimum clinical admission criteria within seven (7) business days of receipt of the referral. This timeline may be extended if additional documentation is required to make a determination (for individuals currently in PACT, the Assessment will have already been completed).
2. If the individual meets minimum clinical criteria, the PACT Team Leader notifies the WSH liaison or WSH discharge planner and North Sound BH-ASO.
3. The PACT team schedules the assessment with the WSH discharge planner. A Request for Service code is submitted by the PACT team if the individual is not already enrolled with the agency assessing the individual.
4. The assessment is performed by PACT staff.
5. After the assessment is complete and the individual is determined to be eligible, the individual is prioritized for admission to the program.
6. If it is determined the individual is not clinically eligible for PACT services, the PACT Program Manager, WSH Liaison and WSH discharge planner are notified for referral to other more appropriate resources.

Coordination with Other Systems

State only funded PACT provides coordination with community resources and other systems involved with the enrolled individual.

When PACT-enrolled individuals are incarcerated, the PACT team will collaborate with jail mental health professionals (MHP). Whenever possible, PACT will visit enrolled individuals who are incarcerated. They will coordinate around current needs and assist in planning for services following the individual's release.

Discharge planning for State only funded PACT cases will begin upon admission to this program.

North Sound will be involved in oversight of all state only funded PACT cases. Review will occur no less than 30 days from admission and every 30 days after, up to discharge.

DISCONTINUATION OF PACT SERVICES

State only funded PACT enrolled individual will need to be discharged from PACT when they have met discharge criteria. PACT will coordinate closely with North Sound BH-ASO on discharge planning. All discharges from state only funded PACT must be approved by North Sound BH-ASO prior to closing the PACT episode. This includes transfers to different levels of care within the North Sound network. Whenever possible, PACT should work with the individual to develop a discharge plan, including connecting them with services appropriate to their level of need.

ATTACHMENTS

None