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North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC

Section 1500 – Clinical: Residential Placement for Mental Health Treatment

Authorizing Source:

Approved by: Executive Director Date: 11/3/2020

Signature:

POLICY # 1532.00

SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

PURPOSE

To ensure that non-Medicaid funded individuals who have a medical necessity for mental health residential treatment have access to this service until they are clinically appropriate for a less intensive level of care.

POLICY

The North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) will ensure that, based on available resources, eligible individuals within the North Sound Regional Service Area (RSA) who need housing in supervised residential settings due to their current mental health disorder, receive such placement within the North Sound BH-ASO provider network. North Sound BH-ASO will ensure the placement is at a licensed Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) or Assisted Living Facility (ALF) and is consistent with the Recovery/Resiliency Plan (RRP).

Residential Placement Options

These residential placement options are for individuals who require 24-hour supportive supervision and services. Length-of-stay is determined on an individual basis with an emphasis placed on transitioning individuals to more independent settings or maintaining them in their current settings.

Residential Treatment Facilities

Per WAC 246-337, a mental health RTF means a facility providing 24-hour evaluation, stabilization and treatment services for individuals with a mental illness and licensed by the Department of Health (DOH). For North Sound BH-ASO-funded residential placement, North Sound BH-ASO's expectation is that contracted RTFs are certified as an adult RTF. In addition, the facility must comply with any applicable statutes and rules.

Placement at an RTF is not meant to be a permanent housing placement and length-of-stay shall generally be between 18-24 months. One aspect of recovery planning during the stay shall be preparing the individual for transition to a less intensive living situation such as an Adult Family Home (AFH), supported housing, or independent living.

Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)

Per WAC 388-78A-2020, an ALF is any home or other institution for the express or implied purpose of providing housing, basic services and assuming general responsibility for the safety and well-being of the residents. For North Sound BH-ASO-funded residential placement, ALF placements are not intended to be permanent housing placements, but in cases where the individual states permanent ALF placement is their preference, North Sound BH-ASO recovery concepts, medical necessity and available resources will be considered in conjunction with individual choice.

PROCEDURES

Residential Prioritization Guidelines are as follows:

1. Individuals transitioning out of Western State Hospital (WSH) into the North Sound BH-ASO RSA or Children's Long-Term Inpatient Program (CLIP);
2. Individuals being discharged from inpatient psychiatric facilities or Individuals being discharged from Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) Facilities, or
3. Individuals referred by community providers.

Residential Referral and Admission

An individual must meet all the following before being referred for mental health residential placement:

1. Eighteen years of age or older.
2. Due to a covered mental health disorder, requires 24-hour supervision to live successfully in community settings.
3. Is ambulatory and does not require physical or chemical restraints.
4. Must have cognitive and physical abilities to enable response to fire alarms.
5. Has not required physical restraint in the past 30 days.
6. Medically stable and free of physical condition(s) requiring medical or nursing care beyond what the residential facility can provide.
7. Has met Level of Care Utilization System/Child & Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS/CALOCUS) criteria for a Level of Care five (5) or six (6) within the past six (6) months.
8. For individuals who meet referral criteria, the residential provider shall ensure the individual receives an assessment by a licensed Mental Health Professional (MHP) to determine medical necessity for mental health residential treatment.

Residential Exclusionary Criteria

1. Individual has a psychiatric condition that requires a more intensive/restrictive option;
2. Individual is actively suicidal or homicidal;
3. Individual meets criteria for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and requires withdrawal management services;
4. Individual has a primary diagnosis of Intellectual Disability (DSM-5) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM-5);
5. Individual has a recent history of arson, serious property damage, or infliction of bodily injury on self or others. This exclusion can be waived based upon the accepting facility's evaluation of individual's functioning.

Authorization

Authorization requirements are outlined in *Policy 1594: Utilization Management*

Discharge Planning

When an individual is admitted to an RTF or ALF, discharge planning should commence upon admission. The RTF and ALF facility is required to assist the individual in accessing a Medicaid benefit as outlined in North Sound BH-ASO's Supplemental Provider Guide. If Medicaid funding is secured for the individual, they would then be eligible to receive services through their health plan.

If the individual is not able to attain Medicaid funding, the RTF and ALF staff are responsible for helping the individual connect with the most appropriate and beneficial ongoing housing resources available.

ATTACHMENTS

None