

1 **66 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

2
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6 REFERENCES: 42 C.F.R. § 438.102; A.R.S § 8-512.01; ~~A.R.S. § 36-550;~~
7 ~~A.R.S. § 36-551;~~ A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 5, Articles 4 and 5; A.A.C. R6-6-
8 807, ~~;~~ A.A.C. R9-10-225, R910-316, and R9-21-20; ~~4AMPM 100; AMPM~~
9 ~~Chapter 200 Behavioral Health Practice Tools; AMPM 650; Behavior Supports~~
10 ~~Manual; AMPM 960; AdSS Medical Policies, Chapters 300 and 900; Division~~
11 ~~and AdSS Medical Policies 960, 962, 1020, and 1040; AdSS Operations~~
12 ~~Policy 446; 300-310-B, 320-O, 320-P, 320-R, 320-S, 320-U, 320-V, 320-W,~~
13 ~~320-X, 450, 541, 580, 960, 963, 964, 1020, 1040; AdSS Operations Policies~~
14 ~~110, 415, 417, 446, 449.~~

15 **PURPOSE**

16 The purpose of this policy is to ~~set forth the~~ clarify expected roles and
17 responsibilities of Qualified Vendors (~~QVs~~) related to coordinating and
18 supporting the implementation of behavioral health services, ~~and as well as~~ to
19 provide additional information regarding the System of Care.

20 **DEFINITIONS**

21 1. "Adult Recovery Team" (ART) means a group of individuals that,
22 following the Nine Guiding Principles for Recovery-Oriented Adult
23 Behavioral Health Services and Systems, work in collaboration
24 and are actively involved in a member's assessment, service
25 planning, and service delivery. At a minimum, the team consists
26 of the member/responsible person, advocates (if assigned), and
27 a qualified behavioral health representative. The team may also
28 include the member's family, physical health, behavioral health
29 or social service providers, other agencies serving the member,
30 professionals representing various areas of expertise related to
31 the member's needs, or other individuals identified by the
32 member.

33 2. "Child and Family Team" (CFT) means a group of individuals
34 that includes, at a minimum, the child and their
35 family/Responsible Person, a behavioral health representative,
36 and any individuals important in the child's life that are
37 identified and invited to participate by the child and family. This
38 may include teachers, extended family members, friends, family
39 support partners, healthcare providers, coaches, and community
40 resource providers, representatives from churches, temples,

41 synagogues, mosques, or other places of worship/faith, agents
42 from other service systems like the Arizona Department of Child
43 Safety or the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The size,
44 scope, and intensity of involvement of the team members are
45 determined by the objectives established for the child, the needs
46 of the family in providing for the child, and by who is needed to
47 develop an effective service plan, and can ~~therefore~~, expand and
48 contract as necessary to be successful on behalf of the child.

49 2.3. "Determining Entity" means an entity designated by AHCCCS
50 and authorized to make Serious Emotional Disturbance and
51 Serious Mental Illness eligibility determinations.

52 4. "Member" means the same as "Client" as defined in A.R.S. § 36-
53 551

54 5. "Mental Health Agency" means a regional authority, service
55 provider, inpatient facility, or outpatient treatment center
56 licensed to provide behavioral health observation/stabilization
57 services (Crisis Facility), licensed to perform Seclusion and
58 Restraint as specified in A.A.C. R9-10-225, R9-10-226, R9-10-
59 316 and R9-10-1012.

60 6. "Planning Document" means a written plan developed through an

61 assessment of functional needs that reflects the services and
62 supports, paid and unpaid, that are important for and important
63 to the Member in meeting the identified needs and preferences
64 for the delivery of such services and supports.

65 7. "Serious Emotional Disturbance" means a designation for
66 individuals from birth up to age 18 who currently or at any time
67 during the past year have had a diagnosable mental or
68 emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic
69 criteria specified within the current version of the Diagnostic and
70 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders that resulted in functional
71 impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits the
72 child's role or functioning in family, school, or community
73 activities.

74 3-8. "Serious Mental Illness" (SMI) means a designation as specified
75 in A.R.S. § 36-550 and determined in an individual 18 years of
76 age or older.

77 4-9. "Support Coordinator" means a "case manager" as defined in
78 A.R.S. § 36-551.

79 **POLICY**

80 **A. QUALIFIED VENDOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED**
81 **TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

82 While the Division delegates the delivery of behavioral health services
83 to the Administrative Services Subcontracted health plans, ~~(AdSS)~~, the
84 Division's Qualified VendorsQVs play an integral role in supporting the
85 delivery and coordination of behavioral health services.

86 1. Qualified VendorsQV shall complete the following activities to
87 ensure members have access to coordinated and integrated
88 behavioral health services: ~~All QVs shall:~~

- 89 a. Be knowledgeable of and support the System of Care and
90 Guiding Principles outlined in AMPM 100.
- 91 b. Play an integral role by providing input to the Planning
92 Team and behavioral health providers regarding a
93 member's behavioral health needs.
- 94 c. Implement strategies to address behavioral concerns about
95 the member.
- 96 d. Assist in developing behavior intervention programs.
- 97 e. Coordinate with behavioral health programs to ensure
98 proper review of medication treatment plans.
- 99 f. Communicate with behavioral health providers and the

100 Planning Team, as needed, to ensure coordination of care.

101 Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- 102 i. Identify and communicate barriers to accessing
103 behavioral health services.
- 104 ii. Communicate the progress, or lack of progress with
105 achieving goals outlined in a member's Behavioral
106 Plan or Functional Behavioral Assessment.

107 ~~Provide the Planning Team updates regarding~~
108 ~~changes with behavioral health needs and services.~~
109 ~~Share any concerns about behavioral health~~
110 ~~symptoms or changes with behavioral health needs.~~
111 ~~Complete Incident Reporting as specified in required.~~
112 ~~Refer to Division Operations Policy Chapter 6000 for~~
113 ~~details regarding Incident Reporting requirements.~~

- 114 iii. Respond ~~to~~ via email or ~~voice mail~~ phone
115 communications ~~received from~~ with behavioral health
116 providers within ~~two~~ business days.

117 ~~Advise or advocate on behalf of a member. The QV~~
118 ~~shall comply with the requirements under 42 C.F.R. §~~
119 ~~438.102 and the intergovernmental Agreement~~

~~between the Division and AHCCCS. The Division may not prohibit, or otherwise restrict, a provider acting within the lawful scope of practice, from advising or advocating on behalf of a member who is authorized to receive services from the provider for the following:~~

- ~~1) The member's health status, medical care, or treatment option including any alternative treatment that may be self-administered.~~
- ~~2) Any information the member needs in order to decide among all relevant treatment options.~~
- ~~3) The risks, benefits, and consequences of treatment of no treatment.~~
- ~~4) 1) The member's right to participate in decisions regarding his or her health care, including the right to refuse treatment, and to express preferences about future treatment decisions.~~

- g. Ensure staff participation in trainings and implement recommended behavioral strategies from behavioral health professionals, as outlined in a member's Planning

- 140 Document.
- 141 h. Attend Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings or Adult
- 142 Recovery Team (ART) meetings.
- 143 i. Implement Behavior Plans ~~/(BP)/~~Functional Behavioral
- 144 Assessments ~~(FBAs)~~ as [required in A.A.C. Chapter 6, Article](#)
- 145 [9, and as](#) described in [the Division](#) Behavior Supports
- 146 Manual.
- 147 ~~Ensure timely collection and submission of and complete~~
- 148 ~~behavioral data collection and submission. Refer to~~
- 149 ~~Provider Manual Chapter 35 for further details regarding~~
- 150 ~~progress reporting requirements.~~
- 151 ~~2. In addition to the activities listed above, the following applies to~~
- 152 ~~Qualified Vendors QVs providing Community Residential~~
- 153 ~~Services residential QVs:~~
- 154 ~~Notify the Division of all hospitalizations within twenty-four~~
- 155 ~~hours of admission, including admission to a behavioral~~
- 156 ~~health facility.~~
- 157 ~~Participate in proactive discharge planning for any hospital~~
- 158 ~~or emergency department admissions.~~

159 j. Ensure members attend scheduled services as outlined in a
160 member's Planning Document.

161 ~~Behavioral Supported Group Homes must provide environmental~~
162 ~~and programmatic safeguards and structures that protect~~
163 ~~the community and treatment for member care as well as~~
164 ~~other members, neighbors, and the community from those~~
165 ~~behaviors that endanger the community and treatment of~~
166 ~~the member, other people, or property, and/or interfere~~
167 ~~with the rights of others.~~

168 k. ~~Ensure~~ The QV shall be responsible for assuring supervision
169 of the member as defined in the Planning Document.

170 ~~k.l. Behavioral Supported Group Homes are required to~~
171 ~~must~~
172 ~~provide environmental and programmatic safeguards and~~
173 ~~structures that protect the community and treatment for~~
174 ~~member care, as well as other members, neighbors, and~~
175 ~~the community from those behaviors that may endanger~~
176 ~~the community and treatment of the member, other people~~
~~or property, and/or interfere with the rights of others.~~

177 **B. ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE - NINE GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

178 The Adult System of Care (ASOC) is a continuum of coordinated

179 community and facility based services and supports for adults with, or
180 at risk for, behavioral health or substance use challenges. The ASOC is
181 organized into a comprehensive network to create opportunities that
182 foster rehabilitation addressing impairment, managing related
183 symptoms, and improving health outcomes by:

- 184 1. Building meaningful partnerships with members served.
- 185 2. Addressing the member's cultural and linguistic needs, and
- 186 3. Assisting the member in identifying and achieving personal and
187 recovery goals.

188 The following principles were developed to promote recovery in the
189 adult behavioral health system. System development efforts, programs,
190 service provision, and stakeholder collaboration shall be guided by
191 these Nine Guiding Principles:

- 192 1. **Respect:** Respect is the cornerstone. Meet the individual where
193 they are without judgment, with great patience and compassion.

- 194 2. **Individuals in recovery choose services and are included
195 in program decisions and program development efforts:**

196 An individual in recovery has choice and a voice. Their self-
197 determination in driving services, program decisions, and
198 program development is made possible, in part, by the ongoing

199 dynamics of education, discussion, and evaluation, thus creating
200 the “informed consumer” and the broadest possible palette from
201 which choice is made. Individuals in recovery should be involved
202 at every level of the system, from administration to service
203 delivery.

204 3. **Focus on individual as a whole person, while including**
205 **and/or developing natural supports:** An individual in
206 recovery is held as nothing less than a whole being: capable,
207 competent, and respected for their opinions and choices. As
208 such, focus is given to empowering the greatest possible
209 autonomy and the most natural and well-rounded lifestyle. This
210 includes access to and involvement in the natural supports and
211 social systems customary to an individual’s social community.

212 4. **Empower individuals taking steps towards independence**
213 **and allowing risk taking without fear of failure:** An
214 individual in recovery finds independence through exploration,
215 experimentation, evaluation, contemplation, and action. An
216 atmosphere is maintained whereby steps toward independence
217 are encouraged and reinforced in a setting where both security
218 and risk are valued as ingredients promoting growth.

- 219 5. **Integration, collaboration, and participation with the**
220 **community of one’s choice:** An individual in recovery is a
221 valued, contributing member of society and, as such, is
222 deserving of and beneficial to the community. Such integration
223 and participation underscores one’s role as a vital part of the
224 community, the community dynamic being inextricable from the
225 human experience. Community service and volunteerism is
226 valued.
- 227 6. **Partnership between individuals, staff, and family**
228 **members/natural supports for shared decision making**
229 **with a foundation of trust:** An individual in recovery, as with
230 any member of a society, finds strength and support through
231 partnerships. Compassion-based alliances with a focus on
232 recovery optimization bolster self-confidence, expand
233 understanding in all participants, and lead to the creation of
234 optimum protocols and outcomes.
- 235 7. **Individuals in recovery define their own success:** An
236 individual in recovery, by their own declaration, discovers
237 success, in part, by quality of life outcomes, which may include
238 an improved sense of well-being, advanced integration into the

239 community, and greater self-determination. Individuals in
240 recovery are the experts on themselves, defining their own goals
241 and desired outcomes.

242 **8. Strengths-based, flexible, responsive services reflective of**

243 **an individual's cultural preferences:** An individual in
244 recovery can expect and deserves flexible, timely, and
245 responsive services that are accessible, available, reliable,
246 accountable, and sensitive to cultural values and mores. An
247 individual in recovery is the source of their/his/her own strength
248 and resiliency. Those who serve as supports and facilitators
249 identify, explore, and serve to optimize demonstrated strengths
250 in the individual as tools for generating greater autonomy and
251 effectiveness in life.

252 **9. Hope is the foundation for the journey towards recovery:**

253 An individual in recovery has the capacity for hope and thrives
254 best in associations that foster hope. Through hope, a future of
255 possibility enriches the life experience.

256 **C. CHILD SYSTEM OF CARE - 12 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

257 Arizona's Child and Family Team (CFT practice model blends shared
258 concepts of the 12 Arizona Principles with the 10 Principles of

259 Wraparound: Family voice and choice, team based, natural supports,
260 collaboration, community based, culturally competent, individualized,
261 strengths based, unconditional, and outcome based. In CFT Practice,
262 it is the child's and family's complexity of needs that drive the
263 development, integration, and individualization of service delivery. The
264 level of complexity is determined individually for each child and family
265 based on their needs and strengths.

266 One variable that is considered when determining complexity of needs
267 for children is the involvement of other child-serving agencies, such as
268 Juvenile Justice (Probation or Parole), Division of Developmental
269 Disabilities (DDD), Department of Child Safety (DCS), and Education
270 (Early Intervention or Special Education). The number of system
271 partners involved and invited to participate in CFT practice by the child
272 and family, contributes to the level of service coordination required, as
273 well as consideration by team members of the individual mandates for
274 each agency involved.

275 Service delivery shall incorporate the Arizona Model in all aspects of
276 service delivery to children and families at all levels of need/acuity as

277 well as children with complex needs or who are determined to have a
278 Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED).

279 **ARIZONA VISION**

280 In collaboration with the child and family and others, Arizona will
281 provide accessible behavioral health services designed to aid children
282 to achieve success in school, live with their families, avoid
283 delinquency, and become stable and productive adults. Services will be
284 tailored to the child and family and provided in the most appropriate
285 setting, in a timely fashion and in accordance with best practices,
286 while respecting the child's family's cultural heritage.

287 **12 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

288 1. **COLLABORATION WITH THE CHILD AND FAMILY**

289 Respect for and active collaboration with the child and parents is
290 the cornerstone to achieving positive behavioral health
291 outcomes. Parents and children are treated as partners in the
292 assessment process, and the planning, delivery, and evaluation
293 of behavioral health services, and their preferences are taken
294 seriously.

295 2. **FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES**

296 Behavioral health services are designed and implemented to aid

297 children to achieve success in school, live with their families,
298 avoid delinquency, and become stable and productive adults.
299 Implementation of the behavioral health services plan stabilizes
300 the child's condition and minimizes safety risks.

301 **3. COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS**

302 When children have multi-agency, multi-system involvement, a
303 joint assessment is developed and a jointly established
304 behavioral health services plan is collaboratively implemented.
305 Client centered teams plan and deliver services. Each child's
306 team includes the child and parents and any foster parents, any
307 individual important in the child's life who is invited to participate
308 by the child or parents. The team also includes all other
309 individuals needed to develop an effective plan, including, as
310 appropriate, the child's teacher, DCS and/or DDD caseworker,
311 and the child's probation officer. The team:

- 312 a. Develops a common assessment of the child's and family's
313 strengths and needs,
- 314 b. Develops an individualized service plan,
- 315 c. Monitors implementation of the plan, and
- 316 d. Makes adjustments in the plan if it is not succeeding.

317 4. **ACCESSIBLE SERVICES**

318 Children have access to a comprehensive array of behavioral
319 health services, sufficient to ensure that they receive the
320 treatment they need. Plans identify transportation the parents
321 and child need to access behavioral health services, and how
322 transportation assistance will be provided. Behavioral health
323 services are adapted or created when they are needed but not
324 available.

325 5. **BEST PRACTICES**

326 Competent individuals who are adequately trained and
327 supervised provide behavioral health services. Behavioral health
328 services useutilizeThey treatment modalities and programs that
329 are evidence based and supported by Substance Abuse and
330 Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) or other
331 nationally recognized organizations. are delivered in accordance
332 with guidelines adopted by Arizona Department of Health
333 Services (ADHS) that incorporate evidence-based “best
334 practice.” Behavioral health service plans identify and
335 appropriately address behavioral symptoms that are reactions to
336 death of a family member, abuse or neglect, learning disorders,

337 and other similar traumatic or frightening circumstances,
338 substance abuse problems, the specialized behavioral health
339 needs of children who are developmentally disabled, maladaptive
340 sexual behavior, including abusive conduct and risky behavior,
341 and the need for stability and the need to promote permanency
342 in ~~class~~ members's lives, especially ~~class~~ members in foster care.
343 Behavioral Health Services are continuously evaluated and
344 modified if ineffective in achieving desired outcomes.

345 **6. MOST APPROPRIATE SETTING**

346 Children are provided behavioral health services in their home
347 and community to the extent possible. Behavioral health services
348 are provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the
349 child's needs. When provided in a residential setting, the setting
350 is the most integrated and most home-like setting that is
351 appropriate to the child's needs.

352 **7. TIMELINESS**

353 Children identified as needing behavioral health services are
354 assessed and served promptly.

355 **8. SERVICES TAILORED TO THE CHILD AND FAMILY**

356 The unique strengths and needs of children and their families

357 dictate the type, mix, and intensity of behavioral health services
358 provided. Parents and children are encouraged and assisted to
359 articulate their own strengths and needs, the goals they are
360 seeking, and what services they think are required to meet these
361 goals.

362 9. **STABILITY**

363 Behavioral health service plans strive to minimize multiple
364 placements. Service plans identify whether a ~~class~~ member is at
365 risk of experiencing a placement disruption and, if so, identify
366 the steps to be taken to minimize or eliminate the risk.

367 Behavioral health service plans anticipate crises that might
368 develop and include specific strategies and services that will be
369 employed if a crisis develops. In responding to crises, the
370 behavioral health system uses all appropriate behavioral health
371 services to help the child remain at home, minimize placement
372 disruptions, and avoid the inappropriate use of the police and
373 criminal justice system. Behavioral health service plans
374 anticipate and appropriately plan for transitions in children's
375 lives, including transitions to new schools and new placements,
376 and transitions to adult services.

377 10. **RESPECT FOR THE CHILD AND FAMILY’S UNIQUE**
378 **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

379 Behavioral health services are provided in a manner that
380 respects the cultural tradition and heritage of the child and
381 family. Services are provided in the child and family’s primary
382 language. Spanish to children and parents whose primary
383 language is Spanish.

384 11. **INDEPENDENCE**

385 Behavioral health services include support and training for
386 parents in meeting their child’s behavioral health needs, and
387 support and training for children in self management. Behavioral
388 health service plans identify parents’ and children’s need for
389 training and support to participate as partners in assessment
390 process, and in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of
391 services, and provide that such training and support, including
392 transportation assistance, advance discussions, and help with
393 understanding written materials, will be made available.

394 12. **CONNECTION TO NATURAL SUPPORTS**

395 The behavioral health system identifies and appropriately utilizes
396 natural supports available from the child and parents’ own

397 network of associates, including friends and neighbors, and from
398 community organizations, including service and religious
399 organizations.

400 **D. COVERED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

401 The Division covers Title XIX/XXI behavioral health services for [eligible](#)
402 [ALTCS](#) members ~~eligible for ALTCS~~ regardless of the health plan they
403 choose. The responsibilities of the Division for providing Title XIX/XXI
404 behavioral health services to members are outlined in the Division
405 Medical Policy 310-B, including additional requirements for members
406 that have chosen the DDD Tribal Health Program (THP) as their health
407 plan. The Division is responsible for collaborating with Tribal entities
408 and behavioral health providers to ensure access to services for THP
409 members. [Refer to See](#) AdSS Medical Policy 310-B for responsibilities
410 of the Division's Subcontracted Health Plans providing Title XIX/XXI
411 behavioral health services.

412 Title XIX/XXI Behavioral Health Services Categories/Subcategories:

- 413 1. Treatment Services: Assessment, Evaluation (non-court
414 ordered), Screening, Counseling, Therapy, Psychophysiological
415 Therapy and Biofeedback.
- 416 2. Rehabilitation Services: Skills Training and Development,

- 417 Psychosocial Rehabilitation Living Skills Training, Cognitive
418 Rehabilitation, Health Promotion, Psychoeducational Services,
419 Ongoing support to maintain employment services/Job Coaching,
420 Pre-vocational services.
- 421 3. Medical Services: Medication, Laboratory, Radiology, Medical
422 Imaging, Medical Management.
- 423 4. Support Services: Case Management, Personal Care, Respite,
424 Home Care Training/Family Support, Self-Help/Peer Services
425 (Peer and Recovery Support), Therapeutic Foster Care for
426 Children, Adult Behavioral Health Therapeutic Home, Unskilled
427 Respite Care, Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment
428 Programs, Permanent Supportive Housing.
- 429 5. Intensive Outpatient and Behavioral Health Day Programs.
- 430 5.6. Behavioral Health Residential Facility Services.
- 431 6.7. Behavior Analysis.
- 432 7.8. Crisis Intervention Services. (~~delivered through the RBHA's~~):
433 ~~Telephonic Crisis Intervention, Mobile Crisis Team Intervention,~~
434 ~~Facility Based Crisis Interventions, Emergency and Non-~~
435 ~~Emergency Medical Transportation.~~

436 8-9. Inpatient Services: Hospital, ~~and~~ Behavioral Health Inpatient
437 Facility (BHIF), and Partial Hospitalization.

438 **E. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL**

439 1. DDD ALTCS eligible members have access to covered behavioral
440 health services for mental, emotional, and substance use
441 disorders without the requirement of a referral. A member,
442 responsible person, family member or care provider may make
443 oral, written or electronic requests for behavioral health services
444 at any time. ~~To avoid duplication of referrals, the QV shall~~
445 ~~communicate with the Support Coordinator prior to making~~
446 ~~direct referrals.~~ Refer to Division Medical Policy 1620-G for
447 details regarding Division behavioral health referrals.

448 2. A referral may be made directly by the member, ~~prospective~~
449 ~~member,~~ responsible person, primary care physician, the health
450 plan, or another care provider, hospital, ~~treat and refer provider,~~
451 jail, court, probation or parole office, school or other government
452 or community agency. ~~as specified in A.R.S. § 8-512.01.~~

453 3. After receiving a referral, behavioral health providers complete a
454 behavioral health assessment. A service plan is developed
455 utilizing the Adult Behavioral Health Service Delivery System –

456 Nine Guiding Principles, and the Arizona Vision and Twelve
457 Principles for Children’s Behavioral Health Service Delivery, as
458 specified in AMPM Policy 100. Service plans encompass a
459 description of all covered services that are deemed medically
460 necessary and based on member voice and choice. Behavioral
461 health assessments and service plans are updated at least once
462 annually, or more often as necessary, based on clinical needs or
463 upon significant life events. Refer to AdSS Medical Policy 320-
464 0580 for additional more information regarding behavioral
465 health assessments and service planning requirements.

466 3.4. Refer to, and AdSS Operations Policy 417 and 449 for
467 information regarding timeline requirements in place to ensure
468 members have timely access to behavioral health services.

469 ~~**BEHAVIOR PLANS AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE**~~

470 ~~Refer to the Behavior Supports Manual for details related to the~~
471 ~~implementation of Behavior Plans and requirements related to Article 9.~~

472 ~~THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPLIES TO THE AdSS AND THEIR~~
473 ~~NETWORK OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS. THIS DOES NOT~~
474 ~~APPLY DIRECTLY TO QVS, HOWEVER, INCLUDES INFORMATION THAT~~
475 ~~MAY BE HELPFUL TO ENSURE COORDINATION OF CARE.~~

476 **F. DUTY TO WARN AND LIABILITIES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
477 **PROVIDERS IN PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**~~DUTY TO~~
478 **WARN**

- 479 1. Arizona Revised Statutes impose a duty to warn and protect
480 when there is an explicit threat of imminent serious physical
481 harm or death to a clearly identified or identifiable victim or
482 victims, and the patient has the apparent intent and ability to
483 carry out such threat. Behavioral health providers have a duty
484 to Under A.R.S. § 36-517.02, to protect others against a
485 member's potential danger to self and/or danger to others.
486 ~~When~~ if a behavioral health provider determines, or under
487 applicable professional standards, reasonably should have
488 determined, that a patient~~member~~ poses a serious danger to self
489 or others, the provider has a duty to take reasonable precautions
490 to ~~prevent harm and~~ protect others against imminent danger of
491 a patient~~member~~ harming themselves/~~herself~~ or others.
- 492 2. This statute further provides that any duty of a behavioral health
493 provider to take reasonable precautions to prevent harm
494 threatened by a patient is discharged when the behavioral health
495 provider:

496 Reasonable precautions include:

- 497 a. Communicates, Communicating, when possible, the threat
498 to all identifiable victims.
- 499 b. Notifies/Notifying a law enforcement agency in the vicinity
500 where the patient/member or any potential victim resides.
- 501 c. Takes/Taking reasonable steps to initiate proceedings for
502 voluntary or involuntary hospitalization, if appropriate, and
503 in accordance with AdSS Medical Policy 320-U.
- 504 d. Takes/Taking any other precautions that a reasonable and
505 prudent behavioral health provider would take under the
506 circumstances.

507 3. The statute also provides immunity from liability when the
508 behavioral health provider discloses confidential communications
509 by or relating to a patient under certain circumstances: The
510 behavioral health provider has no liability resulting from
511 disclosing a confidential communication made by or relating to a
512 patient when a patient has explicitly threatened to cause serious
513 harm to a person or when the behavioral health provider
514 reasonably concludes that a patient is likely to cause harm, and
515 the behavioral health provider discloses a confidential

516 [communication made by or relating to the patient to reduce the](#)
517 [risk of harm.](#)

518 Behavioral health providers have immunity from liability
519 when they perform duty to warn under A.R.S. § 36-
520 517.02. Refer to AMPM 960, AdSS 960 or A.R.S. §
521 36-517.02 for further details.

522 **G. HOUSING CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED TO HAVE A**
523 **SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS-SMI**

- 524 1. The AHCCCS Housing Programs (AHP) consists of the permanent
525 supportive housing and supportive health programs. The
526 majority of AHCCCS available housing funding is reserved for
527 members with a ~~designation of~~ Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
528 [designation](#), although limited housing is provided for some
529 individuals without an SMI designation who are considered to
530 have a General Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder
531 (GMHSUD) need. For persons with GMHSUD needs, housing
532 priority is focused on persons identified with increased service
533 utilization including crisis or emergency services and/or services
534 addressing complex chronic physical, developmental, or
535 behavioral conditions. For a limited number of units within the

536 program, eligibility is further based upon receipt of specific
537 behavioral health services such as an Assertive Community
538 Treatment (ACT) Team.

539 2. AHP is community-based permanent supportive housing where a
540 member should have a renewable lease, the right of entry and
541 exit (not restricted by program), and can voluntarily select
542 services. Housing subsidies are provided for permanent
543 supportive housing in both scattered site units (Scattered Site
544 Program), ~~as well as for~~ dedicated site-based units (Community
545 Living Program), and in projects where a portion of the units
546 have been set aside to serve AHP members (Project Based
547 Voucher). All subsidized rental units must meet or exceed all
548 federal Housing Quality Standards (HQS) minimum standards of
549 health and safety, as well as any additional State requirements,
550 and have a reasonable rent based on market standard. ~~as~~
551 ~~determined by Federal Housing Quality Standards (FQS), and~~
552 ~~have a reasonable rent based on market standards.~~ Housing
553 subsidies are ~~currently~~ paid to the landlord directly on behalf of
554 the member/household. Members are expected to pay up to 30
555 ~~percent %~~ of their income toward their rent with the balance

556 subsidized by the program.

557 3. In addition to housing subsidies, AHP funding also provides for

558 housing related supports and payment such as deposits, move-in

559 assistance, eviction prevention, and damages related to member

560 occupancy. ~~AHP does not include any Behavioral Health~~

561 ~~Residential Facilities, Group Homes, or other licensed clinical~~

562 ~~residential settings.~~ Funds for these purposes are limited based

563 on budget availability. Behavioral Health Residential Facilities,

564 Group Homes, or other licensed clinical residential settings are

565 not eligible for AHP participation.

566 3.4. Supportive services are critical to housing stability and the

567 related benefits of permanent supportive housing. AHCCCS and

568 AHP promote a Housing First model based upon principles of

569 permanent supportive housing provided by the Substance Abuse

570 and Mental Health Service Administration. ~~(SAMHSA).~~

571 Supportive services for members in AHCCCS subsidized housing

572 are determined by their provider and generally provided through

573 Medicaid and other reimbursable services supplied by the

574 managed care health plans and their provider networks. ~~The~~

575 ~~State allocation for AHP is for approximately 3,000 members~~

576 ~~throughout Arizona. Arizona's State Legislature allocates Non-~~
577 ~~Title XIX/XXI General Fund money to AHCCCS annually to~~
578 ~~provide permanent supportive housing.~~

579 **H. OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, AND RE-ENGAGEMENT FOR**
580 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

581 1. Outreach includes activities designed to inform members of
582 behavioral health services availability and to engage or refer
583 those members who may need services. Outreach and
584 engagement activities are essential elements of clinical practice.
585 Behavioral health providers must reach out to vulnerable
586 populations, establish an inviting and non-threatening
587 environment, and re-establish contact with members who have
588 become temporarily disconnected from services.

589 2. Outreach activities include disseminating information to the
590 general public, human services providers, including municipal,
591 county, and state governments, school administrators, first
592 responders, teachers, veterans, and other interested parties
593 regarding the behavioral health services that are available to
594 eligible members.

595 3. Behavioral health providers engage members in active treatment

596 planning processes by including:

597 a. The member and responsible person,

598 b. The member's family or significant others if applicable and

599 amenable to the member,

600 c. Other agencies or providers as applicable, and

601 d. Individuals designated to provide Special Assistance for

602 members determined to have an SMI who are receiving

603 Special Assistance as specified in AdSS Medical Policy 320-

604 R.

605 4. Behavioral health providers engage incarcerated members with

606 high incidence or prevalence of behavioral health issues or who

607 are underserved as specified in AMPM 1022.

608 5. Behavioral health providers engage members experiencing

609 homelessness by including the following:

610 a. Completion of an AHCCCS approved health related social

611 needs screening tool,

612 b. Utilization of the associated Z Codes to the members

613 record, especially those related to housing instability, and

614 c. Provide assistance with the completion of housing

615 applications to address housing stabilization and support
616 ongoing engagement in services.

617 6. Behavioral health providers re-engage members who have
618 withdrawn from treatment, refused services, or failed to appear
619 for a scheduled service.

620 6.7. If a member appears to meet clinical standards as a danger to
621 self or others, or they are persistently and acutely disabled or
622 gravely disabled, the care provider determines whether to
623 attempt to engage the member to seek inpatient care
624 voluntarily. If that is not a viable option, and the clinical
625 standard is met, the care provider may initiate the pre-petition
626 screening or petition for treatment process for court-ordered
627 evaluation and court-ordered treatment. Refer to Division
628 Medical Policy 1040 for additional requirements and details
629 regarding outreach, engagement and re-engagement.

630 **I. PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS WITH FAMILIES AND FAMILY-**
631 **RUN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CHILDREN AND ADULT**
632 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

633 The Division recognizes the importance of the [peer-to-peer](#)
634 [relationship of family membersmember and Parent/Family Support](#)

635 [Service](#) role as a viable component in the delivery of integrated
636 services. ~~Parent~~/Family Support Services may involve support
637 activities ~~that~~ [including, but not limited to](#):
638 a. ~~Helping~~[Assisting](#) the family ~~to~~ adjust to the individual's needs,
639 b. Developing skills to effectively interact, ~~and/~~ or guide the
640 individual's,
641 c. Understanding of the causes and treatment of behavioral health
642 ~~challenges~~[issues](#),
643 ~~d.~~ [Understanding and effective utilization of the system, ~~and~~](#)
644 ~~e.~~ [Planning for ongoing and future support\(s\) for the individual and](#)
645 [the family. Refer to AdSS Medical Policy 964 for additional](#)
646 [information. Understanding and effective utilization of the](#)
647 [system, or planning long term care for the individual and the](#)
648 [family.](#)
649 ~~Refer to AdSS Medical Policy 9643~~

650 **J. PEER SUPPORT/RECOVERY TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, AND**
651 **~~CLINICAL~~ SUPERVISION**

652 Individuals with lived experiences of recovery are an integral part of
653 the behavioral health workforce. Peer support services include the
654 provision of assistance to more effectively utilize the service delivery

655 system (e.g. assistance in developing plans of care, identifying needs,
656 accessing supports, partnering with other practitioners, overcoming
657 service barriers); or understanding and coping with the stressors of
658 the member's disability (e.g. support groups, coaching, role modeling,
659 and mentoring). These services ~~are shall only be~~ provided by Peer and
660 Recovery Support Specialists who have completed training and
661 certification, and receive clinical supervision. Refer to AdSS Medical
662 Policy 963 [for additional information.](#) ~~for details.~~

663 **K. PRE-PETITION SCREENING, COURT-ORDERED EVALUATIONS,**
664 **AND [COURT-ORDERED TREATMENT](#)**

665 1. Court-ordered [evaluation \(COE\)](#) and [court-ordered](#) treatment
666 (COT) is the civil commitment process laid out in A.R.S. Title 36,
667 Chapter 5, Articles [4](#) and [5](#). It states that [any responsible](#)
668 [individual-person](#) may submit an application requesting an
669 [agency to conduct a Pre-Petition Screening](#) when [another](#)
670 [individual is alleged to be, as a result of there is a belief that, due](#)
671 [to a person's a mental disorder, a danger to self, a danger to](#)
672 [others, is persistently or acutely disabled, or is gravely disabled.](#)
673 [and their unwillingness to engage with treatment, they are:](#)

674 [1. — Danger to self](#)

- 675 ~~2. — Danger to others~~
- 676 ~~3. — Persistently or acutely disabled~~
- 677 ~~4.1. Gravely disabled~~
- 678 ~~More information about these screenings and court ordered treatment~~
679 ~~can be found in the AdSS Medical Policy Manual 320-U.~~
- 680 2. Members may seek a voluntary evaluation at any screening
681 agency available statewide.
- 682 3. During the COE and COT process, an individual~~members~~ may
683 agree to a voluntary evaluation. A voluntary evaluation occurs
684 after a Pre-Petition Screening is filed but before a COE is filed,
685 ~~and. It~~ requires the individual's~~person's~~ informed consent.
686 In Arizona, COT is behavioral or mental health treatment that is
687 ordered by a superior (county) court according to the Arizona Revised
688 Statute Title 36 processes.
- 689 ~~4. — An individual who is unwilling to or unable to provide consent to~~
690 ~~receive behavioral health services can be ordered by an Arizona~~
691 ~~Superior the Court to undergo mental health treatment if,~~
692 ~~because of a mental disorder, the individual is determined to be~~
693 ~~a danger to selfthemselves, a danger to others, is persistently or~~
694 ~~acutely disabled, or is gravely disabled.Emergency Situations:~~

695 ~~When a member is a danger to themselves or others due to their~~
696 ~~inability or unwillingness to seek voluntary mental health~~
697 ~~treatment, they may apply for emergency evaluation and~~
698 ~~admission in person. If the screening agency approves the~~
699 ~~application, it issues a pick-up order to law enforcement in the~~
700 ~~region where the member is located, requesting the member be~~
701 ~~delivered to the screening agency for evaluation.~~

702 ~~Non-Emergency Situation: When members are not a danger to~~
703 ~~themselves or others but could be if their behavioral health issues~~
704 ~~remain untreated, a non-emergent application can be filed through any~~
705 ~~of the following agencies:~~

706 ~~Refer to AdSS Medical Policy [Manual-320-U](#) for additional requirements~~
707 ~~related to COE and COT.~~

708 **L. AHCCCS REQUIREMENTS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS**
709 **TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS**

710 Behavioral health providers are required to assist individuals with
711 applying for Arizona Public Programs (Title XIX/XXI, Medicare Savings
712 Programs, Nutrition Assistance, and Cash Assistance), and Medicare
713 Prescription Drug Program (Medicare Part D), including the Medicare
714 Part D “Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs” low

715 income subsidy program, as well as verification of U.S.
716 citizenship/lawful presence prior to receiving Non-Title XIX/XXI
717 covered behavioral health services, at the time of intake for behavioral
718 health services. Refer to AMPM 650 [for additional information.](#) ~~for~~
719 ~~further details.~~

720 **M. OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

721 1. ~~When considering in~~It may be necessary to consider an out-of-
722 state placement for behavioral health treatment to meet ~~at~~the
723 member's unique circumstances or clinical needs, ~~the following~~
724 should be taken into consideration:-

725 a. ~~All The decision to place a member in out-of-state~~
726 ~~placement for behavioral health treatment is examined by~~
727 ~~the member's health plan and the Division after the CFT or~~
728 ~~the ART have reviewed all other in-state options have been~~
729 ~~reviewed, including. Other options may include~~ single case
730 ~~agreements with in-state providers or the development of~~
731 ~~a Service Plan that incorporates a combination of support~~
732 ~~services and clinical interventions.~~

733 b. ~~The~~

734 2. The following factors may lead theto a member's CFT or ART to
735 consider the temporary out-of-state placement:

736 The member requires specialized programming not currently
737 available in Arizona to effectively treat a specified behavioral
738 health condition.

739 c. An out-of-state placement's approach to treatment
740 incorporates and supports the unique cultural heritage of
741 the member.

742 d. A lack of current in-state bed capacity.

743 e. The geographic proximity of the out-of-state placement
744 supports and facilitates family involvement in the
745 member's treatment.

746 2. Prior to placing a member in an out-of-state facility for
747 behavioral health treatment the following criteria must be met:
748 the CFT or ART ensures that:

749 a. The member or member's's Responsible Person is in
750 agreement with the out-of-state placement.

751 b. The out-of-state placement is registered as an AHCCCS
752 provider.

753 c. There is a plan in place to ensure the member has access
754 to non-emergency medical needs by an AHCCCS registered
755 provider.

756 d. The out-of-state placement meets the Arizona Department
757 of Education Academic Standards for members up to the
758 age of 21 years.

759 3. Services provided out-of-state must meet the same
760 requirements as those rendered in-state. Refer to Division
761 Medical Policy 450 for additional requirements for out-of-state
762 placements, for behavioral health, including documentation
763 requirements, Service Plan requirements, and notification to
764 AHCCCS requirements.

765 **M.N. SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
766 **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

767 1. Seclusion and restraintAR shall only be used to the extent
768 permitted by and in compliance with A.A.C. R9-10-225,
769 A.A.C. R9-10-316, and A.A.C. R9-21-204.

770 2. All providersfacilities are required to report seclusions and,
771 restraints, and emergency responses in accordance with Division
772 Medical Policy 962. This applies to all state licensed behavioral

773 health inpatient facilities, mental health agencies, out-of-state
774 facilities, and the [Arizona State Hospital](#) ~~and ADHS~~ providing
775 [behavioral health services to treating Division](#) members ~~with~~
776 [ACC, DD and ALTCS EPD coverage. All interventions used during](#)
777 [each incident of seclusion or restraint must be documented in a](#)
778 [single individual report, including all required components of](#)
779 [each type of intervention used to manage the behavior.](#)

780 ~~Types of seclusion and restraint include:~~

781 ~~— Any manual method, physical or mechanical device, material, or~~
782 ~~equipment that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a Member~~
783 ~~to move their arms, legs, body, or head freely.~~

784 ~~— A drug or medication when it is used as a restriction to manage~~
785 ~~a Member's behavior or restrict the Member's freedom of~~
786 ~~movement and is not a standard treatment or dosage for the~~
787 ~~Member's condition as specified in 42 CFR 482.13 (e)(1)(i)(B).~~

788 ~~Chemical Restraints shall be interpreted and applied in~~
789 ~~compliance with the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) State~~
790 ~~Operations Manual, Appendix A at A-0160 for Regulations and~~
791 ~~Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals.~~

792 ~~— A Restraint does not include devices such as orthopedically~~
793 ~~prescribed devices, surgical dressings or bandages, protective~~
794 ~~helmets, or other methods that involve the physical holding of a~~
795 ~~Member for the purpose of conducting routine physical~~
796 ~~examinations or tests, or to protect the Member from falling out~~
797 ~~of bed or to permit the Member to participate in activities~~
798 ~~without the risk of physical harm. This does not include a~~
799 ~~physical escort.~~

800 ~~— Involuntary solitary confinement of a Member in a room or an~~
801 ~~area where the Member is prevented from leaving as specified in~~
802 ~~A.A.C. R9-10-101.~~

803 ~~— For member determined to have a Serious Mental Illness,~~
804 ~~includes:~~

805 ~~— Restriction of a Member to a room or area through the use~~
806 ~~of locked doors, or any other device or method which~~
807 ~~precludes a Member from freely exiting the room or area,~~
808 ~~or which a Member reasonably believes precludes their~~
809 ~~unrestricted exit.~~

- 810 — In the case of an inpatient facility, confining a
811 Member to the facility, the grounds of the facility, or
812 a ward of the facility does not constitute Seclusion.
- 813 i. In the case of a community residence, restricting a
814 Member to the residential site, according to specific
815 provisions of a service plan or court order, does not
816 constitute Seclusion, as specified in A.A.C. R9-21-
817 101(B).
- 818 3. Seclusion and Restraint Reports involving Division Members are
819 submitted through the AHCCCS QM Portal within five business
820 days of the incident using AMPM Policy 962 Attachment A or the
821 agency’s electronic medical record that includes all elements
822 listed on AMPM 962 Attachment A.
- 823 4. Seclusion and Restraint Reports are sent to the Division’s
824 geographically assigned Independent Oversight Committees
825 (IOC) for review to determine if the use of seclusion or restraint
826 was inappropriate or unlawful, or may be used in a more effective
827 or appropriate fashion.
- 828 5. IF the IOC determines that the use of seclusion or restraint was
829 inappropriate or unlawful, the IOC may take whatever action is

830 necessary in accordance with IOC Regulations and A.A.C. R9-21-
831 204, if applicable.

832 If the AHCCCS OHR or any IOC determines that SAR has been
833 used in violation of any applicable law or rule, the AHCCCS OHR
834 or IOC may take whatever action is appropriate in accordance
835 with their applicable regulation(s) and, if applicable, A.A.C. R9-
836 21-204.

837 Chemical restraint: Pharmacological restraint that is not standard
838 treatment. It helps manage the member's behavior or restrict
839 their movement to lower the safety risk to themselves or others.

840 Mechanical restraint: Any device, article, or garment attached or
841 next to a member's body that restricts the member's movement
842 and is not easily removed. This lowers the safety risk to
843 themselves or others.

844 2. Seclusion: Involuntary confinement in a room or an area from
845 which the member cannot leave.

846 **O. SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE AND SERIOUS MENTAL**
847 **ILLNESS (SMI) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS**

848 **1. The Division shall require all behavioral health providers**

849 to follow a standardized process for the referral,
850 assessment, evaluation, and determination of SED and
851 SMI eligibility as specified in Division Medical Policy 320-

852 P.

853 ~~2.~~—An ~~Determination of~~ SED or SMI determination requires both the
854 qualifying ~~SMI~~ diagnosis and functional impairment as a result of
855 the qualifying diagnosis. The licensed psychiatrist, psychologist,
856 or nurse practitioner~~NP~~ of the determining entity ~~(either the~~
857 ~~authorized AHCCCS designee or a TRBHA authorized to make~~
858 ~~the final determination)~~ designates ~~must make~~ the a final SED
859 or SMI eligibility determination. ~~about whether the person meets~~
860 ~~the SMI status eligibility requirements based on:~~

861 ~~a.~~—A face to face assessment or a qualified clinician's review of
862 ~~a face-to-face assessment (AMPM Policy 950), and~~

863 ~~2.~~ A review of current and historical information, if any, obtained
864 orally or in writing by the assessor from collateral sources, and/or
865 present or previous treating clinicians.

866 3. The determining entity will send a Notice of Decision letter by
867 mail informing the member of the final decision regarding their
868 SED or SMI eligibility determination. The letter will include

869 information about the member's rights and the appeal process.

870 If the Determining Entity finds the member is not eligible for

871 SED or SMI services the letter will explain why.

872 4. Members seeking a determination of SMI and members who have
873 been determined to have an SMI can appeal the results of the
874 determination.

875 5. To meet the functional criteria for SED status, as a result of a
876 qualifying diagnosis, requires dysfunction in at least one of the
877 following four domains for most of the past six months or for
878 most of the past three months with an expected continued
879 duration of at least three months:

880 a. Seriously disruptive to family or community,

881 b. Dysfunction in role performance,

882 c. Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System
883 recommended level of care 4, 5, or 6, or

884 d. Risk of deterioration.

885 6. The Division shall not allow the following reasons alone to be
886 sufficient for denial of SED eligibility:

887 a. An inability to obtain existing records or information, or

- 888 ~~b.~~ b. Lack of a face-to-face psychiatric or psychological
889 evaluation.
- 890 7. To meet the functional criteria for SMI status, as a result of a
891 qualifying SMI diagnosis, requires dysfunction in at least one of
892 the following four domains for most of the past 12 months or for
893 most of the past six months with an expected continued duration
894 of at least six months:
- 895 a. Inability to live in an independent or family setting without
896 supervision,
- 897 b. Seriously disruptive to family or community, ~~A risk of harm~~
898 to self or others.
- 899 c. Dysfunction in role performance, or
- 900 d. Risk of deterioration.
- 901 8. The Division shall not allow the following reasons alone to be
902 sufficient for denial of SMI eligibility:
- 903 a. An inability to obtain existing records or information, or
904 b. Lack of a face-to-face psychiatric or psychological
905 evaluation.
- 906 9. Refer to Division Medical Policy 320-P for the required
907 presumption of functional impairment for members with co-

908 occurring substance use when assessing for SED or SMI
909 eligibility.

910 ~~3. AHCCCS contracts with a specific determining entity to complete~~
911 ~~the SMI determinations. The determining entity will send the~~
912 ~~member a Notice of Decision letter by mail informing them of the~~
913 ~~final decision, regarding their SMI determination. This letter will~~
914 ~~include information about their rights and how to appeal process~~
915 ~~the decision. For more information, please refer to AdSS 320-P.~~

916 P. **SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS SMI GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCESS**

917 The SMI grievance process applies only to adults who have been
918 determined to have an serious mental illness (SMI) and to all
919 behavioral health services received by the member.

920 1. A grievance may be submitted if:

- 921 a. Rights have been violated;
- 922 b. Suspected abuse or mistreatment by staff of a provider;
- 923 c. Subjected to dangerous, illegal, or inhuman treatment
924 environment; or
- 925 d. Member death that occurs in a mental health agency or as
926 a result of an action of a person employed by a mental
927 health agency.

928 ~~SMI grievances must be filed within 12 months of the rights violation~~
929 ~~occurring.~~

930 2. The grievance must be filed with the agency responsible for
931 delivering the behavioral health services.

932 3. Grievances concerning physical abuse, sexual abuse, or a
933 [member's/person's](#) death are investigated by AHCCCS. [Refer to](#)
934 [AdSS Operations Policy 446 for additional requirements regarding](#)
935 [SMI grievances and investigations.](#)

936 **~~SMI Determination Appeal Process~~**

937 ~~AHCCCS contracts with a determining entity to make a~~
938 ~~determination of SMI designation upon referral or request.~~

939 ~~Members seeking a determination of SMI and members who have~~
940 ~~been determined to have an SMI can appeal the result of the~~
941 ~~determination.~~

942 ~~The determining entity will send a letter by mail to let the~~
943 ~~member know the final decision on their SMI determination. This~~
944 ~~letter is called a Notice of Decision. The letter will include~~
945 ~~information about your rights and how to appeal the decision. If~~
946 ~~the determining entity finds the member is not eligible for SMI~~

947 ~~services, the letter will tell why. To file an appeal, members can~~
948 ~~call the determining entity or submit a written request to appeal~~
949 ~~the decision within 60 calendar days from the date on the Notice~~
950 ~~of Decision letter.~~

951 ~~Refer to AdSS Operations Policy Manual 446 for additional details~~
952 ~~regarding the SMI grievance process.~~

953 **Q. SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS SMI TREATMENT APPEAL PROCESS**

954 **Treatment Appeal Process**

955 1. Persons who have been determined to have an an SMI-serious
956 mental illness can also appeal parts of their treatment plan,
957 including:

- 958 a. A decision regarding fees or waivers.
- 959 b. The assessment report, and recommended services in the
960 service plan or individual treatment or discharge plan.
- 961 c. The denial, reduction, suspension or termination of any
962 service that is a covered service funded through Non-Title
963 XIX/XXI-19/21 funds.
- 964 d. Capacity to make decisions, need for guardianship or other
965 protective services, or need for special assistance.

- 966 e. A decision is made that the member is no longer eligible for
967 SMI services.
- 968 f. A [Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review](#) (PASRR)
969 determination in the context of either a preadmission
970 screening or an annual resident review, which adversely
971 affects the member.
- 972 2. To file an appeal related to any SMI treatment plan/behavioral
973 health services, the member/responsible person must call or send
974 a letter to the agency/health plan that made the denial,
975 discontinuance, suspension, or reduction in services.
- 976 a. The member/responsible person will receive written notice
977 from the responsible agency that ~~they~~^{your} appeal was
978 received within ~~five~~⁵ business days of the agency's receipt.
979 An informal conference will be held with the responsible
980 agency within ~~seven~~⁷ business days of filing the appeal.
- 981 b. The informal conference must happen at a time and place
982 that is convenient for the member/responsible person. The
983 member/responsible person has the right to have a
984 designated representative of their choice assist them at the
985 conference.

- 986 c. The responsible agency will inform the member/responsible
987 person and any other participants ~~will be informed~~ of the
988 time and location of the conference, in writing, at least two
989 working days before the conference. Individuals may
990 participate in the conference over the telephone.
- 991 3. For an appeal that needs to be expedited, a written notice that
992 the appeal was received will be sent to the member/responsible
993 person within one business day of the responsible agency's
994 receipt, and the informal conference must occur within two
995 business days of filing the appeal.
- 996 4. If the appeal is resolved to satisfaction at the informal
997 conference, the member/responsible person will receive a written
998 notice that describes the reason for the appeal, the issues
999 involved, the resolution achieved, and the date that the
1000 resolution will be implemented.
- 1001 5. If there is no resolution of the appeal during this informal
1002 conference, the next step is a second informal conference with
1003 AHCCCS.

- 1004 6. The member/responsible person may waive the second level
1005 informal conference and proceed to a State Fair Hearing⁷
1006 however.
- 1007 7. If the second level informal conference with AHCCCS is waived,
1008 the responsible agency will assist the member/responsible
1009 person in filing a request for State Fair Hearing at the conclusion
1010 of the health plan informal conference.
- 1011 8. If there is no resolution of the appeal during the second informal
1012 conference with AHCCCS, the member/responsible person will be
1013 given information regarding that will tell them how to request get a
1014 State Fair Hearing. The Office of Grievance and Appeals at
1015 AHCCCS handles requests for State Fair Hearings upon the
1016 conclusion of second level informal conferences.
- 1017 9. If an appeal is filed, any services already in place will continue⁷
1018 unless:
- 1019 a. A qualified clinician decides that reducing or terminating
1020 services is best for the member you, or
1021 b. You The member/responsible person The Responsible
1022 Person agrees in writing to reduc inge or terminat ing
1023 services.

1024 9. If the appeal is not decided in the member's favor, the
1025 responsible agency may require the member/responsible person
1026 to pay for the services received during the appeal process. If the
1027 member/responsible person still does not understand the Notice
1028 of Adverse Benefit Determination letter, they have the right to
1029 contact AHCCCS Medical Management at
1030 MedicalManagement@azahcccs.gov.

1031 10. ~~Individuals~~ ~~Persons~~ determined to have an ~~SMI serious mental~~
1032 ~~illness~~ cannot appeal a decision to deny, suspend, ~~reduce~~, or
1033 terminate services that are no longer available due to a
1034 reduction in State funding. Refer to AdSS Operations ~~Manual~~
1035 Policy ~~9444~~ for additional ~~information details~~ regarding SMI
1036 appeals processes.

1037 ~~R. OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL~~
1038 ~~PROCESSES~~

1039 ~~Members or their responsible person may refer to the DDD website or~~
1040 ~~their DDD Health Plan websites for information on filing about how to~~
1041 ~~file grievances or appeals regarding behavioral health services that are~~
1042 ~~not related to SMI determinations or SMI treatment.~~

1043 ~~S.~~ ~~R.~~ **AHCCCS DUGless PORTAL GUIDE**

- 1044 1. AHCCCS has developed a plan to help ~~health~~ care providers
1045 collect and report demographic and social determinants of health
1046 and outcome data, commonly referred to as the Demographic
1047 User Guide (DUG). This plan reduces the number of data points
1048 care providers must report ~~by. It involves~~ using:
- 1049 a. Alternative data sources. AHCCCS has identified current
1050 demographic elements in other AHCCCS data systems and
1051 other source agreements.
 - 1052 b. Social Determinants of Health ICD-10 Diagnosis codes.
1053 ~~These diagnosis codes reported on claim submissions began~~
1054 ~~April 1, 2018.~~
 - 1055 c. Demographic Portal.
- 1056 2. For those social determinant/demographic/outcome elements
1057 with no identified alternative data source or Social Determinants
1058 of Health diagnosis identifier, AHCCCS created an online portal
1059 (DUGless) accessed directly by care providers to collect applicable
1060 identified data elements for members.
- 1061 3. All care providers ~~Both the provider organizations and provider~~
1062 agencies that ~~typically~~ historically provided these types of data ~~for~~
1063 ~~the DUG as well as all care providers who typically provide these~~

1064 ~~types of data~~ will provide the required information through
1065 DUGless.

- 1066 4. The requirements, definitions, and values for submission of the
1067 identified data elements are specified in the AHCCCS DUGless
1068 Portal Guide (DPG). Required information is collected by AHCCCS
1069 health care providers. Data and information are recorded and
1070 reported to managed care organizations to assist in monitoring
1071 and tracking. For more information refer to the Demographics,
1072 Social Determinants and Outcomes page on the AHCCCS
1073 website~~ahcccs.gov website~~.

1074 **S. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BEST PRACTICE TOOLS**

1075 AHCCCS has developed a set of Behavioral Health Best Practice Tools to
1076 be used by all behavioral health providers and are located in Division
1077 Medical Policies 580 through 587. which have been converted to formal
1078 policies in the AMPM Chapter 200. These policies also~~The policies/tools~~
1079 set the expectations for the behavioral health providers. Many of the
1080 policies include information relevant to partner agencies, such as
1081 Qualified Vendors~~QVs~~, who participate in CFT and ART.~~on the Child and~~
1082 Family Teams (CFTs) or Adult Recovery Teams (ARTs):

1083 AMPM 210 Working with the Birth through Five Population.

- 1084 ~~2. AMPM 211 Psychiatric and Psychotherapeutic Best Practices~~
1085 ~~for Children Birth through Five Years of Age.~~
- 1086 ~~3. AMPM 220 Child and Family Team.~~
- 1087 ~~4. AMPM 230 Support and Rehabilitation Services for Children,~~
1088 ~~Adolescents, and Young Adults.~~
- 1089 ~~5. AMPM 240 Family Involvement in the Children’s Behavioral~~
1090 ~~Health System.~~
- 1091 ~~6. AMPM 250 Youth Involvement in the Children’s Behavioral~~
1092 ~~Health System.~~
- 1093 ~~7. AMPM 260 The Unique Behavioral Health Services Needs~~
1094 ~~of Children, Youth, and Families involved with DCS.~~
- 1095 ~~8. AMPM 270 Children’s Out of Home Services.~~
- 1096 ~~9. AMPM 280 Transition to Adulthood.~~