



C A L I F O R N I A   D E P A R T M E N T   O F

# Mental Health

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February 3, 2004

DMH LETTER NO.: 04-02

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON FOURTH MENTAL  
HEALTH PLAN PAYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR  
THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

REFERENCE DMH Information Notice No. 02-08

Effective September 1, 2003, mental health plans (MHPs) are required to submit information to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and to the MHP's mental health director regarding the MHP's decision to approve a fourth MHP payment authorization for therapeutic behavioral services (TBS). This requirement is included in the DMH/MHP contract, Exhibit A, Attachment 1, Section Z.3.f. (Section EE.3.f for San Mateo) and provides:

When the Contractor approves a fourth MHP payment authorization request for a beneficiary, the Contractor shall provide a summary of the TBS services provided, justification for the additional authorization and a termination plan with clearly established timelines and benchmarks, including a planned date for termination of TBS, in writing to the Mental Health Director for the Contractor and to the Deputy Director, Systems of Care, Department of Mental Health, within five working days of the authorization decision.

DMH began receiving the required information in September 2003 and has identified a possible misunderstanding of the requirement. Please note that the information is to be submitted after the MHP has reviewed the provider's MHP payment authorization request and determined that continuation of TBS is appropriate. Information may not be submitted to DMH prior to the MHP's decision to approve the fourth authorization request. DMH will not be making decisions on the requests from the MHP's providers for MHP payment authorization of TBS. DMH will use the submitted information to establish that the MHP is

following the requirements of DMH Letter No. 99-03 and the terms of the DMH/MHP contract regarding TBS and to provide technical assistance if a problem is identified.

The submission requirement does not limit the number of MHP payment authorizations that may be approved for TBS. MHP payment authorizations for TBS must continue to be approved as long as TBS continues to be necessary for the eligible beneficiary under the conditions described in DMH Letter No. 99-03 and the MHP/DMH contract. MHPs are not required to submit information to DMH or to their mental health director for approved MHP payment authorizations subsequent to the fourth authorization.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your Medi-Cal contract manager in the County Operations Sections below.

### **DMH County Operations Medi-Cal Contract Managers**

#### **Bay Region**

Ruth Walz (Regional Lead) (707) 252-3168  
Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano

Douglas Mudgett (916) 654-3623  
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Peter Best (916) 657-3487  
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#### **Northern Region**

Kathleen Carter (Interim) (916) 651-6613  
Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity

Kathleen Carter (916) 651-6613  
Del Norte, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Nevada, Sierra

Stacy Hoang (916) 654-4016  
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Jacqui Naud (916) 654-2996  
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**Central Region**

Vivian Lee (Regional Lead) (916) 651-6281  
Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Sacramento, Kings, San Joaquin, Tulare, Tuolumne

Lori Hokerson (916) 651-6296  
Amador, El Dorado, Merced, Placer, Stanislaus, Sutter-Yuba, Yolo

Joseph Kim (916) 651-6339  
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**Southern Region**

Eddie Gabriel (Regional Lead) (916) 654-3263  
Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura

Linda Brophy (916) 654-7357  
Imperial, San Luis Obispo

Troy Konarski (916) 654-2643  
Kern, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino

Sincerely,

*(Original Signed By)*

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.  
Director

cc: California Mental Health Planning Council  
Chief, County Operations, South and Central Regions  
Chief, County Operations, North and Bay Regions