

Bulletin Number: MSA 20-50

Distribution: Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs), Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)

Issued: July 31, 2020

Subject: Youth Peer Support Services

Effective: September 1, 2020

Programs Affected: Medicaid

Youth Peer Support is a peer-delivered service for youth and young adults. It is designed to support youth and young adults with serious emotional disturbance/serious mental illness (SED/SMI) through shared activities and interventions in the form of direct support, information sharing, and skill building. The goals of Youth Peer Support include supporting youth and young adults by building a strong relationship based on mutual respect and strategic self-disclosure to increase hope, confidence, self-advocacy skills, and decision-making abilities.

The purpose of this policy is to expand and clarify the Medicaid definition for Youth Peer Support Services for youth and young adults by adding descriptive detail about this service that provides standards for the additional population served. Effective September 1, 2020, the definition of Youth Peer Support Services will be updated to include the following information.

Population

Youth Peer Support Services can be provided to youth and young adults up to 26 years of age, dependent on the individual's developmental and life stage needs.

Services

Youth Peer Support Services are provided by trained Youth Peer Support Specialists, one-on-one or in a group setting. Youth Peer Support Services are primarily provided in a home or a community setting.

Individual Plan of Service

In accordance with the goals in the youth's or young adult's plan of service, Youth Peer Support Specialists promote hope and acceptance by sharing their story of lived experience to reduce stigma and increase youth voice and ownership in services. Youth Peer Support Services assist and prepare youth and young adults to successfully navigate challenges, support opportunities for youth/young adults to have a voice in planning and decision-making, empower youth/young adults to communicate wants and needs to those involved in their lives, and encourage participation in services and daily activities.

Qualified Staff

Youth Peer Support Specialists must have lived experience navigating behavioral health systems and must actively participate in and complete the approved MDHHS core training and ongoing certification requirements and expectations. In addition, Youth Peer Support Specialists must be:

- Young adults, ages 18 through 28, with lived experience who received mental health services as a youth or young adult
- Willing and able to self-identify as a person who has received or is receiving behavioral health services and is prepared to use that experience to help others.
- Experienced in receiving services in a variety of systems (such as child welfare, education, the justice system, vocation, housing etc.) as a youth or young adult is preferred.
- Employed by a PIHP/CMHSP or its contract providers.
- Trained in the MDHHS approved curriculum and ongoing training model, specific to needs of the population served.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved



Kate Massey, Director
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