



December 2, 2011

Re: Behavioral Health Organizations and  
OMH-designated child SED Specialty Clinics

Dear Colleague,

The Offices of Mental Health (OMH) and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) are contracting with Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) to review inpatient behavioral health service use for the Medicaid fee-for-service population. BHOs also will monitor outpatient services for children with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) who receive care in OMH-designated Specialty Clinics. This letter is a follow-up to the BHO orientation sessions recently conducted throughout the state and is meant to clarify expectations for providers operating OMH-designated outpatient Specialty Clinics for SED children.

The following BHOs will manage the OMH-designated NYS regions:

- Central: Magellan Behavioral Health
- Hudson River: Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
- Long Island: To be determined
- New York City: OptumHealth
- Western: New York Care Coordination Program

BHOs will interact with OMH-designated specialty clinics that serve SED children to gather information about diagnosis, demographics, and functional limitations in this population. If it has not done so already, the BHO in your region will contact you shortly to discuss procedures for:

- Notifying the BHO of each new episode of care initiated for a child who is diagnosed as having an SED and is covered by Medicaid Managed Care.
- Submitting information on a child-specific basis including child identifiers, diagnosis and functional impairment.

The BHOs will summarize the collected information in quarterly reports that will be available to providers. This information also will assist OMH's planning efforts for this vulnerable population. If you have any questions about BHOs and SED Specialty Clinics, please contact your OMH Field Office Child and Youth Coordinator:

- Central: [Glady Smith](#) (315) 426-3945
- Hudson River: [May Lum](#) (845) 454-8265



- Long Island: [Maryann Braithwaite](#) (631) 761-2063
- New York City: [Susan Thaler](#) (212) 330-1668
- Western: [Jean Sadowy](#) (716) 533-4181

We appreciate your willingness to work with us towards rapid implementation of BHOs and look forward to continued collaboration.

Thomas Smith, MD

Director of Operations, New York State Behavioral Health Organizations  
New York State Office of Mental Health

cc: Suzanne Feeney, General Manager, Medicaid, Behavioral Solutions, OptumHealth  
Adele Gorges, Executive Director, New York Care Coordination Program  
Deb Happ, Magellan, Vice President, Operations, Magellan Behavioral Health  
Richard Sheola, Corporate Vice President, ValueOptions, Inc.  
Mitchell Shuwall, Associate Executive Director, Zucker Hillside Hospital-LIJMC  
Carole Taylor, Chief Clinical Officer, Community Care Behavioral Health  
Kelly Hansen, NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors  
Alison Burke, Greater New York Hospital Association  
Cindy Levernois, Healthcare Association of New York State  
Robert Myers, OMH                      Rob Kent, OASAS  
Kristin Riley, OMH                      Steve Hanson, OASAS  
Don Zalucki, OMH                      Adam Karpati, DOHMH  
John Tauriello, OMH                      Jay Zucker, OMH  
Susan Essock, OMH                      Sheila Donahue, OMH  
Gary Weiskopf, OMH                      Patrick Morrison, OASAS  
Tom Wallace, OMH                      Pam Nash, OASAS  
Pam Wondro, OMH                      Tim Donovan, OASAS  
Marcia Fazio, OMH                      Steve Rabinowitz, OASAS  
Anita Appel, OMH                      Trish Marsik, DOHMH  
Mike Hoffman, OMH                      Lily Tom, DOHMH