



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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January 21, 2015

To: Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)
Executive Directors
Children's Mental Health Directors
Behavioral Health Directors
North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA)

From: Trina Ita MA, LPC, Director 
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Program Services Section II

Re: Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver Statewide Expansion

Purpose

The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division (MHSA) has responded to legislative direction and collective stakeholder request for statewide access to the YES Waiver. Statewide adoption of the waiver will increase access to needed services and positively impact the quality of care for children and youth who would otherwise be at risk for institutionalization.

The purpose of this Broadcast Message is to provide information on the YES Waiver and the regional rollout strategy to expand services statewide.

YES Waiver Background and Overview

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) is a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver program focused on the prevention or reduction of institutionalization of children and adolescents ages 3 – 18 with serious emotional disturbances (SED). YES Waiver services enable more flexibility in providing intensive community-based services for children and adolescents with SED, and provide support for their families by improving access to care. The YES Waiver is administered under Social Security Act §1915(c) and approved by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS must approve expansion of the YES Waiver as a Medicaid Program. While awaiting approval for expansion into additional counties, DSHS will expand YES as a general revenue (GR) program to areas not yet approved by CMS.

Program information, including the YES Waiver Program Manual is available at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/yes/>.

LOC-YES and YES Waiver Service Array

Children and youth with Medicaid who are enrolled in YES are entitled to the behavioral health services available in Texas Resilience and Recovery (TRR) and are authorized in LOC-YES to reflect access to those services. In accordance with the YES Waiver approved by CMS, the LMHA provides the TRR services to children/youth enrolled in YES Waiver and use Intensive

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Case Management (ICM) for the development of an individual recovery plan (IPC) and coordination of services for each child/youth enrolled in YES.

The YES service array provides services above, beyond, and in addition to what is available through TRR. A Comprehensive Waiver Provider, contracted by DSHS through an open enrollment process, provides the YES service array. The notice of open enrollment (NOE) is available at: http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid=82557.

Medicaid Program v General Revenue Program Expansion

The YES program policies and services are the same regardless of CMS approval as a Medicaid program or if the program is funded through the GR expansion.

LMHAs provide TRR services available in LOC-YES to Medicaid eligible children and youth enrolled in YES and are reimbursed through existing Medicaid reimbursement procedures for those services.

In areas where CMS has not approved expansion, Comprehensive Waiver Providers provide the YES service array and are reimbursed through GR. Upon approval by CMS of the service area to be included in the YES Waiver as a Medicaid program, Comprehensive Waiver Providers will be reimbursed by existing procedures for Medicaid reimbursement.

Implementation Strategy

DSHS staff will provide clinical, administrative, and technical assistance to the LMHAs. In addition, DSHS staff will host provider forums to recruit YES Comprehensive Providers across the State.

DSHS has contracted with the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH) at the University of Texas at Austin to provide implementation support for the YES Waiver, including both organizational and wraparound implementation support. TIEMH provides both wraparound training and coaching support to assist the workforce in gaining the skill necessary to conduct high quality and high fidelity wraparound. Organizational support includes community asset and organizational process mapping, strategic planning support, and the use of data as a part of the continuous quality improvement process.

As a part of the Statewide Implementation Strategy DSHS and TIEMH will provide YES Waiver resource materials to each LMHA, offer expertise on process and organizational strategies, host planning and strategy meeting prior to implementation and ongoing support via regularly scheduled conference calls.

DSHS and TIEMH will provide a **YES Waiver Expansion webcast, January 26th at 10am**. It is requested that Executive Directors, Behavioral Health Directors, Children's Mental Health Directors, and individuals likely to be responsible for the YES Waiver program at the LMHA participate on this webcast. The following link should be utilized to participate on this webcast:

<https://meeting.austin.utexas.edu/yesexpansion/>

Implementation Activities

Each implementation cohort will receive a comprehensive YES Waiver Starter Kit and Implementation Workbook (see attachments) and submit these documents prior to the beginning of implementation activities. DSHS and TIEMH will review the information and submit process and organizational questions to each LMHA. TIEMH will host a planning and strategy meetings prior to implementation and will continue to support new YES Waiver sites with ongoing process and organizational support calls and on-site support, as indicated. DSHS will provide

YES Waiver specific training (including CMBHS training) and technical assistance.

Timeline

The selection of the YES Waiver Implementation Cohorts is driven by a data informed strategy based on deviations in and out of LOC-4, rates of hospitalization and/or placement at residential treatment facilities.

The proposed expansion timeline and implementation cohorts are identified below:

Implementation Cohort	Implementation Activities Begin	Implementation Date
1. Betty Hardwick, Center for Life Resources, Central Counties Center Denton, Emergence, Helen Farabee and Tri-County Services, Lakes Regional	February 1, 2015	April 15, 2015
2. ACCESS, Andrews, Brazos, Concho Valley, Hill Country, Permian Basin and West Texas, StarCare	March 15, 2015	May 31, 2015
3. Bluebonnet, Border Region, Burke, Camino Real, Coastal Plains, Gulf Bend, Nueces County, Spindletop and Texana	April 1, 2015	June 15 2015
4. Central Plains, Pecan Valley, Community Healthcore, Heart of Texas, Panhandle and Texoma	May 15, 2015	July 31, 2015

Wraparound Trainings

LMHA's provide ICM using The National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC) model for Wraparound. This is the same model used for the provision of ICM in LOC-4. Minimum training requirements for the provision of ICM are consistent with Information Item A of the Performance Contract. LMHAs are encouraged to consider if additional Wraparound facilitators will need to be trained in order to implement YES Waiver.

Wraparound trainings are currently provided quarterly by TIEMH and LMHAs may choose to send staff to any Wraparound training cohort with available capacity. The training schedule for TIEMH trainings is available below (per TIEMH, may be subject to change). In addition to trainings, TIEMH provides Wraparound coaching and support, as indicated, to participating LMHAs.

Wraparound Training	Cohort One	Cohort Two	Cohort Three	Cohort Four
Training Site	<i>Dallas</i>	<i>Austin, ATCIC</i>	<i>Austin, ATCIC</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Introduction to Wraparound	January 28, 29, 30	March 10, 11,12	June 15, 16, 17	Sept/Oct (TBD)
Engagement	February 18	April 13	July TBD	Oct/Nov

Intermediate	July TBD	Aug/Sep TBD	(Dec TBD)	(Mar/Apr 2016 TBD)
Supervisor/Advanced	February 12 & 13 (Austin) / August XX (Austin)			

For questions or further information regarding YES Waiver statewide expansion, please contact Jennifer Martinez at jenniferm.martinez@dshs.state.tx.us or Kim Garrett at kim.garrett@dshs.state.tx.us. For questions regarding Wraparound trainings and/or to contact TIEMH directly, please contact Erin Espinosa at erin.espinosa@austin.utexas.edu.