



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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**Broadcast MSG # 172**

**December 17, 2014**

To: Executive Directors, Behavioral Health Directors, and Utilization Managers  
Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)  
North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) and Value Options

From: Ross Robinson, Director *RL*  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Program Services Section

Re: Documentation of Deviation Reasons from Recommended Levels of Care (LOC-R)

Individual children are sorted into Recommended Levels of Care (LOC-R) based on their responses to the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment. When the Authorized Level of Care (LOC-A) differs from the LOC-R, deviation reasons must be documented. At present, deviation reasons are not being consistently documented across individuals and local mental health authorities (LMHAs). Please review the Utilization Management (UM) guidelines regarding the appropriate use of deviation reasons between full levels of care (FLOCs).

Currently, there is a specific concern that deviation reasons for special programs, such as Youth Empowerment Service Waiver (YES Waiver), are being entered in an inconsistent manner.

Proposed solution:

DSHS wants to streamline data entry in order to achieve higher quality data and, thus, enhance program assessment.

In Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS), when deviating a child or youth from the LOC-R to a special program such as YES Waiver, the deviation reason that should always be selected is "Clinical Need." Other special programs that will become available in the near future are Residential Treatment Center (RTC) and Early Onset Psychosis (EO) programs, and the deviation reason for these programs should likewise be documented as "Clinical Need." Not all LMHAs have these special programs available; however, when these programs are available, please select "Clinical Need" when deviating the child from the LOC-R to the LOC-A = YES, RTC, or EO.

Please direct any questions regarding this procedure to Brettany Boozer at (512) 206-4563 or [brettany.boozer@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:brettany.boozer@dshs.state.tx.us).