



United Behavioral Health

<b>Exception Requests for Designated Mental Health Professionals</b>			<b>Policy Identifier/Number:</b> AD-17
Annual Review Completed Date: February 2018			
<b>Policy Category:</b> Government – Pierce Regional Support Network	<b>Applicable Lines of Business:</b> Medicaid	<b>Entity/Plan:</b> Optum Pierce Behavioral Health Organization	<b>State:</b> Pierce County, Washington
<b>Approved by:</b> Bea Dixon, Executive Director		<b>Signature:</b> 	

**Policy Statement and Purpose**

Optum Pierce Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) has DMHPs available to conduct investigations and detentions of individuals, including adults and children age 13 and older, who present a likelihood of serious harm, who are gravely disabled or who may be criminally insane.

To describe how Optum Pierce BHO ensures compliance with the requirement that a Designated Mental Health Professional (DMHP) be available to perform investigation and detention of individuals for involuntary treatment services.

**Policy Audience and Applicability**

This policy is applicable to the Optum Pierce BHO and benefits administered through the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) current Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP).

**Policy Definitions**

N/A

**Policy Provisions**

1. In accordance with WAC 388-865, Optum Pierce BHO may request an exception to the requirements for a Designated Mental Health Professional for a person with less than a master’s degree level of training, if necessary to meet the needs of its service area. DSHS may grant an exception of the minimum requirements on a time-limited basis and only with a demonstrated need for an exception under the following conditions:
  - 1.1. Optum Pierce BHO has made a written request for an exception including:
    - 1.1.1. Demonstration of the need for an exception;
    - 1.1.2. The name of the person for whom an exception is being requested;
    - 1.1.3. The functions which the person will be performing; and

Optum is responsible for adhering to all applicable state and/or federal laws governing activities within the scope of this policy, including the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy requirements, as well as the applicable requirements, standards and regulations as set forth by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Labor (DoL), and any applicable accrediting organizations.

- 1.1.4. A statement from the crisis agency's Clinical Director that the person is qualified to perform the required functions based on verification of required education and training, including:
  - 1.1.4.1. Holding a Bachelor of Arts or Sciences degree from an accredited college or university;
  - 1.1.4.2. Completion of course work or training in making diagnoses, assessments, and developing treatment plans; and
  - 1.1.4.3. Documentation of at least 5 years of direct treatment of persons with mental illness under the supervision of a Mental Health Professional.
2. When an exception is granted, in accordance with WAC 388-865, a plan of action is to be put in place to assure the individual will become qualified no later than 2 years from the date of exception. Optum Pierce BHO may apply for renewal of the exception. However, the exception may not be transferred to a different BHO or applied to any individual other than the person named in the exception request.
3. As part of Optum Pierce BHO's Clinical and Administrative site visit protocol, provider policies and procedures and supervision records are reviewed to ensure that evaluations of the job performance of individual Designated Mental Health Professionals are conducted in accordance with WAC 388-865.

#### **Related Policies, Procedures & Materials**

- Pierce Behavioral Health Organization policy: AD-03 - *Provider Credentialing and Re-credentialing*
- Pierce Behavioral Health Organization policy: QA-08 - *Clinical and Administrative Review Including Annual Review of Community Mental Health Agencies*

#### **Attachments**

N/A

#### **Approval History**

- Policy created and effective: 07/2009
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 10/26/2009
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 08/23/2010
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 09/26/2011
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 08/27/2012
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 12/02/2013
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 09/22/2014
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 09/28/2015
- Policy and Procedure Committee review and approval: 02/24/2016
- Operation Procedures and Standards Committee reviewed and accepted: 01/25/2017
- Optum Pierce BHO reviewed and accepted: February 2018