

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Behavioral Health Service Providers

Date: October 26, 2017

Subject: Criminal Background Checks & Behavioral Health Licensing Revisions

Summary: There have been recent legislative and rulemaking revisions impacting behavioral health service providers (BHSPs). For your reference, a summary of changes and corresponding resources are posted below.

BHSP License Rule Revisions

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Health Standards Section (HSS) published revisions to the BHSP licensing rules on July 20, 2017. The revised BHSP licensing regulations, BHSP licensing applications and other relevant information is available on the HSS BHSP landing at:

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/7950/catid/154>

Act 311 – Criminal Background Check Requirement

Act 311 of 2016, codified at La. R.S. 40:1203.1 et al., requires employers to perform “criminal history and security checks on non-licensed persons prior to ... making an offer to employ or to contract with a non-licensed person...” Additional information is available on the HSS BHSP landing referenced above. This regulation serves as a supplement to LDH’s Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual, which requires all persons, including licensed staff and practitioners, to pass criminal background checks as a condition of employment. The Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual is available at

http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Providermanuals/BHS_Main.htm.

Any questions regarding these changes should be directed to Desiree Castello with the LDH Health Standards Section at (225) 342-0158 or Desiree.Castello@la.gov.