

# Crisis stabilization for youth

Plan: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Clinical Policy ID: CCP.4046

Recent review date: 8/2024

Next review date: 12/2025

Policy contains: Bed based services; crisis stabilization; crisis support.

*AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has developed clinical policies to assist with making coverage determinations. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's clinical policies are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), state regulatory agencies, the American Medical Association (AMA), medical specialty professional societies, and peer-reviewed professional literature. These clinical policies along with other sources, such as plan benefits and state and federal laws and regulatory requirements, including any state- or plan-specific definition of "medically necessary," and the specific facts of the particular situation are considered, on a case-by-case basis by AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana when making coverage determinations. In the event of conflict between this clinical policy and plan benefits and/or state or federal laws and/or regulatory requirements, the plan benefits and/or state and federal laws and/or regulatory requirements shall control. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's clinical policies are for informational purposes only and not intended as medical advice or to direct treatment. Physicians and other health care providers are solely responsible for the treatment decisions for their patients. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's clinical policies are reflective of evidence-based medicine at the time of review. As medical science evolves, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will update its clinical policies as necessary. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's clinical policies are not guarantees of payment.*

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## Policy statement

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Crisis stabilization is intended to provide short-term and intensive supportive resources for the youth and his/her family. The intent of this service is to provide an out-of-home crisis stabilization option for the family in order to avoid psychiatric inpatient and institutional treatment of the youth by responding to potential crisis situations. The goal will be to support the youth and family in ways that will address current acute and/or chronic mental health needs and coordinate a successful return to the family setting at the earliest possible time. During the time the crisis stabilization is supporting the youth, there is regular contact with the family to prepare for the youth's return and his/her ongoing needs as part of the family. It is expected that the youth, family and crisis stabilization provider are integral members of the youth's individual treatment team.

Transportation is provided between the child/youth's place of residence, other services sites and places in the community. The cost of transportation is included in the rate paid to providers of these services.

Medicaid cannot be billed for the cost of room and board. Other funding sources reimburse for room and board, including the family or legally responsible party (e.g., Office of Juvenile Justice [OJJ] and Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS]).

## Components

The components of CS services are as follows:

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1. A preliminary assessment of risk, mental status and medical stability and the need for further evaluation or other mental health services must be conducted. This includes contact with the member, family members or other collateral sources (e.g., caregiver, school personnel) with pertinent information for the purpose of a preliminary assessment and/or referral to other alternative mental health services at an appropriate level;
2. CS includes out of home short-term or extended intervention for the identified Medicaid-eligible individual based on initial and ongoing assessment of needs, including crisis resolution and debriefing;
3. CS includes follow up with the individual and with the individual's caretaker and/or family members; and
4. CS includes consultation with a physician or with other qualified providers to assist with the individual's specific crisis.

## **CS Provider Qualifications**

### **Agency**

To provide crisis stabilization services, the agency must arrange for and maintains documentation that prior to employment (or contracting, volunteering, or as required by law) individuals pass criminal background checks, including sexual offender registry checks, in accordance with all of the below:

1. Behavioral Health Service Provider (BHSP) licensing regulations established by the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 48:I.Chapter 56, which includes those for owners, managers, and administrators; any individual treating children and/or adolescents; and any non-licensed direct care staff;
2. La. R.S. 40:1203.1 et seq. associated with criminal background checks of unlicensed workers providing patient care;
3. La. R.S. 15:587, as applicable; and
4. Any other applicable state or federal law:
  - a. Not hire individuals failing to meet criminal background check requirements and regulations. Individuals not in compliance with criminal background check requirements and regulations shall not be utilized on an employment, contract nor volunteer basis. Criminal background checks performed over 90 days prior to the date of employment will not be accepted as meeting the criminal background check requirement. Results of criminal background checks are to be maintained in the individual's personnel record;
  - b. Review the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General (OIG) List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) and the LDH State Adverse Actions website prior to hiring or contracting any employee or contractor that performs services that are compensated with Medicaid/Medicare funds, including but not limited to licensed and nonlicensed staff, interns and contractors. Once employed, the lists must be checked once a month thereafter to determine if there is a finding that an employee or contractor has abused, neglected or extorted any individual or if they have been excluded from participation in the Medicaid or Medicare Program by Louisiana Medicaid or the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General. The provider is prohibited from knowingly employing, contracting with, or retaining the employment of or contract

with, anyone who has a negative finding placed on the Louisiana State Adverse Action List, or who have been excluded from participation in the Medicaid or Medicare Program by Louisiana Medicaid or the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General;

**NOTE:** Providers are required to maintain results in personnel records that checks have been completed. The OIG maintains the LEIE on the OIG website (<https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov>) and the LDH Adverse Action website is located at <https://adverseactions.ldh.la.gov/SelSearch>.

- c. Arrange for and maintain documentation that all persons, prior to employment, are free from Tuberculosis (TB) in a communicable state via skin testing (or chest exam if recommended by physician) to reduce the risk of such infections in members and staff. Results from testing performed over thirty (30) days prior to date of employment will not be accepted as meeting this requirement;
- d. Establish and maintain written policies and procedures inclusive of drug testing staff to ensure an alcohol and drug-free workplace and a workforce free of substance use. (See Appendix D);
- e. Maintain documentation that all direct care staff, who are required to complete first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and seizure assessment training, complete American Heart Association (AHA) recognized training within 90 days of hire, which shall be renewed within a time period recommended by the AHA. (See Appendix D);
- f. Ensure and maintain documentation that all non-licensed persons employed by the organization complete a documented training in a recognized Crisis Intervention curriculum prior to handling or managing crisis calls, which shall be updated annually;
- g. Maintain documentation for verification of completion of required trainings for all staff;
- h. Be an agency licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS);
- i. Maintain treatment records that include a copy of the treatment plan, the name of the individual, dates of services provided, nature, content and units of rehabilitation services provided, and progress made toward functional improvement and goals in the treatment plan; and
- j. Supervise the direct service workers (DSWs) that provide the care members receive.

The DSW's ability to perform their assigned duties in order to:

1. Determine whether member is receiving the services that are written in the plan of care;
2. Verify that the DSW is actually reporting to the home according to the frequency ordered in the plan of care; and
3. Determine member's satisfaction with the services member is receiving.

## **Staff**

To provide crisis stabilization services, staff must meet the following requirements:

1. Be at least 18 years of age, and at least three years older than an individual under the age of 18 that they provide services;
2. Have a high school diploma, general equivalency diploma or trade school diploma in the area of human services, or demonstrate competency or verifiable work experience in providing support to persons with disabilities;

NOTE – HUMAN SERVICES FIELD: It is LDH's position that degrees in Criminal Justice, Education, and Public Administration (among others) do not generally meet the requirements necessary to be considered human services related fields for purposes of providing Crisis Intervention services. Provider agencies employing individuals with degrees in academic majors other than counseling, social work, psychology or sociology for the provision of Crisis Intervention services must maintain documented evidence in the individual's personnel file that supports the individual's academic program required at least seventy percent (70%) of its core curriculum be in the study of behavioral health or human behavior. Transcripts alone will not satisfy this requirement. A signed letter from the college or university stating the academic program required curriculum in which at least seventy percent (70%) of its required coursework was in the study of behavioral health or human behavior will satisfy the requirement. College or university published curriculum (may be published via college/university website) inclusive of required coursework demonstrating the program met the requirement is also acceptable.

3. Satisfactorily complete criminal background check pursuant to the BHSP licensing regulations (LAC 48:I.Chapter 56), La. R.S. 40:1203.1 et seq., La. R.S. 15:587 (as applicable), and any applicable state or federal law or regulation;
4. Employees and contractors must not be excluded from participation in the Medicaid or Medicare Program by Louisiana Medicaid or the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General;
5. Direct care staff must not have a finding on the Louisiana State Adverse Action List;
6. Pass a tuberculosis (TB) test prior to employment;
7. Pass drug screening tests as required by agency's policies and procedures;
8. Complete American Heart Association (AHA) recognized first aid, CPR and seizure assessment training. Psychiatrists, APRNs/CNSs/PAs, RNs and LPNs are exempt from this training. (See Appendix D);
9. Pass a motor vehicle screen;
10. Possess and provide documentation of a valid social security number;
11. Provide documentation of current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid certifications;
12. Comply with law established by La. R.S. 40:2179 et seq., and meet any additional qualifications established under Rule promulgated by LDH in association with this statute;

13. Use clinical programming and a training curriculum approved by OBH prior to providing the service; and
14. Operate within their scope of practice license required for the facility or agency to practice in the State of Louisiana.

## **CS Allowed Provider Types and Specialties**

### **1. Center Based Respite Care**

- a. Licensed as a home and community-based services (HCBS) provider/ Center-Based Respite per La. R.S. 40:2120.1 et seq. and Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 48:I.Chapter 50 found at the following website: <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osr/lac/Code.aspx>;
- b. Completion of State-approved training according to a curriculum approved by OBH prior to providing the service. (See Appendix D); and
- c. PT 83 Center Based Respite Care, PS 8E CSoC/Behavioral Health.

### **2. Crisis Receiving Center**

- a. Licensed per La. R.S. 40:2180.12 and LAC 48:I. Chapters fifty-three (53) and fifty-four (54) found at the following website: <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osr/lac/Code.aspx>;
- b. Completion of State-approved training according to a curriculum approved by OBH prior to providing the service. (See Appendix D); and c. PT AF Crisis Receiving Center, PS 8E CSoC/Behavioral Health.

### **3. Child Placing Agency (Therapeutic Foster Care)**

- a. Licensed as a Child Placing Agency by Department of Children and Family Services under the Specialized Provider Licensing Act (La. R.S. 46:1401- 46:1430) and LAC 67:V.Chapter 73, found at the following website: [https://www.dcf.la.gov/assets/docs/searchable/Licensing/Residential/2022/20221001\\_Child\\_Placing\\_Regulations.pdf](https://www.dcf.la.gov/assets/docs/searchable/Licensing/Residential/2022/20221001_Child_Placing_Regulations.pdf).
- b. Completion of State-approved training according to a curriculum approved by OBH prior to providing the service. (See Appendix D); and
- c. PT AR Therapeutic Foster Care, PS 9F Therapeutic Foster Care.

## **CS Limitations/Exclusions**

The following services shall be excluded from Medicaid coverage and reimbursement:

1. Services rendered in an institute for mental disease; and

2. The cost of room and board. The minimum daily rate on file is an all-inclusive rate.

Crisis stabilization shall not be provided simultaneously with short-term respite care and shall not duplicate any other Medicaid State Plan service or service otherwise available to the member at no cost.

### **CS Allowed Mode(s) of Delivery**

1. Individual; and
2. On-site.

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## **References**

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Louisiana Department of Health. 2017. Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual. Bed Based Services. Chapter 2, Section 2.2. Issued 01/12/2024.

Louisiana Department of Health. 2017. Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual. Bed Based Services. Chapter 2. Appendix D. Curriculum/Equivalency Standards. Issued 01/12/24.

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## **Policy updates**

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Initial review date: 8/1/2023

8/2024: Policy updated. No major changes.