

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

DIVISION OF PREVENTION AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Statutory Authority: 16 Delaware Code, Section 5001(11); 29 Delaware Code, Section 9005(7)
(16 Del.C. §5001(11) & 29 Del.C. §9005(7))

FINAL

ORDER

Qualifications for Juvenile Mental Health Screeners

NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS:

Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) initiated the process to adopt the State of Delaware Regulations Governing the Qualifications for Juvenile Mental Health Screeners. The DSCYF proceedings to adopt regulations were initiated pursuant to 29 Del.C. Ch. 101 and authority as prescribed by 16 Del.C. §5001, (11).

During the 147th Delaware General Assembly, HB 346, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE COMMITMENT OF THE MENTALLY ILL, was signed into law. The new law created a definition for "Juvenile Mental Health Screener" and authorized DSCYF to establish regulations concerning the credentialing process and criteria for Juvenile Mental Health Screeners.

On December 1, 2015 (Volume 19, Issue 6), DSCYF published in the Delaware *Register of Regulations* its proposal to promulgate regulations, pursuant to 29 Del.C. §10113. After receiving written public comment, DSCYF is amending the proposed regulation by changing the first sentence of 3.2.3.2 to read as follows: "Current employment or contract relationship required with one of the following: DSCYF operated facility, DSCYF crisis services, or a Delaware licensed mental health hospital under contract with DSCYF." Since this only clarifies a definition, it is not a substantive change.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Language relating to the Qualifications for Juvenile Mental Health Screeners is being promulgated as a new regulation in accordance with 16 Del.C. §5001, (11).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that the State of Delaware Regulations Governing Qualifications of Juvenile Mental Health Screeners is adopted and shall become effective February 11, 2016, after publication of the final regulation in the Delaware *Register of Regulations*.

Carla Benson-Green, Secretary
January 15, 2016

Qualifications for Juvenile Mental Health Screeners

1.0 Juvenile Mental Health Screener Credentialing

Title 16, Chapter 50 of the Delaware Code states that only Juvenile Mental Health Screeners, authorized by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF), have the authority to detain or abrogate a detainment of an individual under the age of 18 for emergency detention, pending a psychiatric evaluation. No person shall hold himself out to the public as a juvenile mental health screener unless the person is credentialed in accordance with this chapter, and acting in the capacity of their employment or contract relationship through which they have been granted juvenile mental health screener status. The Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS) is the DSCYF Division responsible for implementing and enforcing this law.

2.0 Definitions

As used in this regulation:

"Crisis services" means services provided by the staff or contractors of DPBHS Child Priority Response program or a psychiatric hospital contracted by the DSCYF, in the course of their employment.

"Department" and "DSCYF" means the Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families.

"Division" and "DPBHS" means the Division of Behavioral Health Services.

"DSAMH" means the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health of the Department of Health and Social Services.

“Eligible entity” means a facility operated by the DSCYF, DSCYF crisis services provider, or a Delaware licensed mental health hospital under contract with the DSCYF.

“Emergency detention” and “emergently detained” means the process whereby a minor who appears to have a mental condition, and whose mental condition causes the person to be dangerous to self or dangerous to others, and whose parent or legal guardian is unwilling, or unavailable, to have the minor admitted to a facility voluntarily for assessment or care, is involuntarily detained for such evaluation and treatment for 24 hours unless the parent or legal guardian is unavailable to the Department during that 24 hour period; in such instances the time period may be extended to 72 hours.

“Juvenile Mental Health Screener” means an individual who has applied for and been approved to be credentialed as a Juvenile Mental Health Screener under Chapter 50, by the DPBHS.

“Psychiatric Facility” means a Delaware licensed mental health hospital under contract with the DSCYF.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families.

3.0 Qualifications of Applicants for Credentialed Mental Health Screener

3.1 Psychiatrists, Board Certified Emergency Physicians, and Physicians.

3.1.1 Psychiatrists, board certified emergency physicians and physicians who meet the criteria of 16 DE Admin. Code §§6002.3.1 - 6002.3.3 may detain or abrogate a detainment for a psychiatric evaluation of any person, over or under age 18 as detailed in 16 DE Admin. Code §6002.

3.2 Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professionals

3.2.1 A credentialed Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professional, who meets the qualifications enumerated in this regulation, may detain or abrogate a detainment for a psychiatric evaluation of a person under the age of 18.

3.2.2 Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professionals must meet the following qualifications:

3.2.2.1 Registered Nurse. Each applicant shall document current licensure by the State of Delaware as a Registered Nurse with a BSN degree and in good standing, as set forth in 24 Del.C. Ch. 19;

3.2.2.2 Advanced Practice Nurse. Each applicant shall document current licensure by the State of Delaware as an Advanced Practice Nurse in good standing, as set forth in 24 Del.C. Ch. 19;

3.2.2.3 Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Each applicant shall document current licensure in the State of Delaware as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in good standing, as set forth in 24 Del.C. Ch. 39 and have at least 2 years/4000 hours of post masters clinical experience;

3.2.2.4 Licensed Professional Counselor of Mental Health. Each applicant shall document current licensure by the State of Delaware as a Licensed Professional Counselor of Mental Health in good standing, as set forth in 24 Del.C. Ch. 30 and have at least 2 years/4000 hours of post masters clinical experience;

3.2.2.5 Licensed Psychologist. Each applicant shall document current licensure by in the State of Delaware as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in good standing, as set forth in 24 Del.C. Ch. 35;

3.2.2.6 Other Licensed Behavioral Health Professional. The Secretary of the Division of Services for Children Youth and Their Families may designate other behavioral or mental health professionals, who are licensed under Delaware Law, and the Secretary may set requirements for their qualifications to serve as juvenile mental health screeners.

3.2.3 Additional requirements: Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professionals

3.2.3.1 Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professionals must complete DPBHS’s juvenile mental health screener training, or the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health mental health screener training, in order to be authorized to act as a juvenile mental health screener.

3.2.3.2 Current employment or contract relationship required [with one of the following: DSCYF operated facility, DSCYF crisis services, or a Delaware licensed mental health hospital under contract with DSCYF]. A credentialed Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professional will no longer be considered a Juvenile Mental Health Screener, and his authority to detain or abrogate detainments will end, when the professional is no longer employed by the DSCYF operated facility, or employed by or under contract with the DSCYF to perform crisis services, or is no longer employed by or under contract with a Delaware licensed mental health hospital under contract with the DSCYF.

3.2.3.3 For non-physician juvenile mental health screeners, consultation with another juvenile mental health screener is required. If both juvenile mental health screeners are non-physicians, they must concur with the detainment. A physician with juvenile mental health screener status may override the detainment determination of a non-physician juvenile mental health screener.

3.2.3.4 Each applicant under this section must be approved or credentialed by the DPBHS.

4.0 Applications Process

4.1 Application for credentialing.

4.1.1 Physicians, psychiatrists, and Board Certified Emergency Physicians.

4.1.1.1 Physicians, including psychiatrists and Board Certified Emergency Physicians shall submit to the Division a resume, verification of current employment, and all contact information, Delaware license numbers and titles, and such other credentials or proof of certification as may be necessary to meet requirements set forth in Section 3.0 above.

4.1.1.2 Physicians, psychiatrists, and Board Certified Emergency Physicians who hold current Mental Health Screener status, through the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, are exempt from this requirement.

4.1.1.3 If required to complete training by 16 DE Admin Code §6002, that training must be completed prior to acting as a Juvenile Mental Health Screener.

4.1.2 Licensed Non-Physician Mental Health Professionals.

4.1.2.1 A licensed non-physician mental health professional who wishes to be credentialed as a Juvenile Mental Health Screener under Chapter 51 must obtain a recommendation from the Chief Executive Officer or Director or the eligible entity the licensed non-physician mental health professional is employed by or contracted with.

4.1.2.2 The applicant or the eligible entity the applicant is employed by or contracted with, must submit the juvenile mental health screener application to DPBHS.

4.1.2.3 The application shall include the Chief Executive Officer or Director's recommendation, a resume, verification of current employment, and all contact information, Delaware license numbers and titles, such other credentials or proof of certification as may be necessary to meet requirements set forth in Section 3.0 above.

4.1.2.4 After the application and supporting materials are received by the DPBHS, the Division will accept or decline the recommendation that the applicant enter the juvenile mental health screener class.

4.1.2.5 The applicant must complete the training required in Section 5.0 prior to acting as a Juvenile Mental Health Screener.

4.2 Application for Re-credentialing

4.2.1 All Delaware credentialed juvenile mental health screeners except as noted in subsection 4.2.1.2 below will be required to re-apply every two (2) years, 60 days prior to the second anniversary date of the issued credential, for renewal of the credential to DPBHS.

4.2.1.1 The application for renewal shall require proof of continuing licensure, credentials or certification as may be necessary to meet the requirements set forth in Section 3.0 above to be re-credentialed.

4.2.1.2 Psychiatrists and Board Certified Emergency Physicians are the only professionals not required to undergo this re-credentialing process. All other physicians as well as licensed non-physician mental health professionals, must comply with either this re-credentialing process, or the re-credentialing process of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

4.2.2 DPBHS will provide eligible entities any updated information or changes to the policies, procedures, regulations, or laws that would impact juvenile mental health screeners. Eligible entities shall be responsive for distributing this information to their affiliated juvenile mental health screeners.

4.2.3 Eligible entities are responsible for monitoring their affiliated juvenile mental health screeners, to ensure that screeners are complying with the re-credentialing process and maintaining current licensure or other requirements to practice in their profession.

5.0 Training, Credentialing and Re-credentialing Requirements for Licensed Mental Health Professionals

5.1 Training. The following standards will apply to the credentialing and re-credentialing of Juvenile Mental Health Screeners and sets forth the minimum qualifications and training requirements.

5.1.1 For licensed physicians, other than psychiatrists and Board Certified Emergency Room Physicians, training guidelines for applicants will include content that may change over time and is up to DPBHS to direct.

5.1.1.1 Compliance with qualifications specified in Section 3.0 above;

5.1.1.2 Compliance with training guidelines, including completion of 4 hours of training by either the DPBHS or DSAMH; and

5.1.1.3 Satisfactory score on the credentialing examination.

5.1.2 Licensed Mental Health Professionals

5.1.2.1 Compliance with qualifications specified in Section 3.0 above;

5.1.2.2 Compliance with training guidelines as specified in subsection 5.1 above, including completion of either DSAMH mental health screener 40 hour training or 4 hours of juvenile mental health screener training by DPBHS; and

5.1.2.3 Satisfactory score on either the DPBHS or DSAMH credentialing examination.

5.3 Re-Credentialing

5.3.1 Licensed Physicians other than psychiatrists and Board Certified Emergency Physicians:

5.3.1.1 Compliance with qualifications specified in Section 3.0 above; and

5.3.1.2 Compliance with training guidelines as specified in subsection 5.1 above, including completion of 4 hours of training by DSAMH or DPBHS every two years.

5.3.2 Licensed Mental Health Professionals

5.3.2.1 Compliance with qualifications specified above; and

5.3.2.2 Compliance with training guidelines as specified in subsection 5.1 above, including completion of 4 hours of training by DPBHS or DSAMH every two years.

6.0 Credentialed Juvenile Mental Health Screener Performance

6.1 Conflict of interest statement: The intent of the law is to ensure that no person is detained for any reason other than experiencing symptoms associated with a mental condition that may result in danger to self or others, and that any potential or apparent conflicts of interest as set forth in 16 Del.C. §5004 are disclosed on the DPBHS Emergency Detainment Request Form within 24 hours of signature of the detention order. Potential or apparent conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to, employment by a privately operated psychiatric facility, a personal relationship with the individual being detained or committed involuntarily, a relationship with family or significant others of the individual being detained or committed involuntarily, or being the victim of a crime by the person being detained or committed involuntarily. An Emergency Detainment Request Form must be completed for every youth under 18 detained under this regulation. This form must be maintained in the client's records as described in subsection 6.2.

6.2 Record Keeping, Forms and Documentation. The following standards will apply to the Forms and Documentation required monitoring and reporting on the performance of juvenile mental health screeners, including performance as it pertains to compliance with conflict of interest disclosure in actions to detain, or undo a detainment, of an individual under this statute.

6.2.1 Credentialed juvenile mental health screeners will be required to complete a DPBHS Emergency Detainment Request Form for the purpose of ensuring a standardized approach to assessing the needs of clients in crisis and documenting the decision premised upon that assessment. These forms will become part of the client's records.

6.2.2 For youths whose detainments are paid in whole or in part by DPBHS, or who are otherwise currently in DPBHS services: the DPBHS Emergency Detainment Request Form must be sent to DPBHS as soon as possible and within 24 hours by the admitting psychiatric facility. DPBHS will collect and monitor all DPBHS Emergency Detention Forms performed by juvenile mental health screeners, whether a conflict of interest is disclosed or not, for purposes of ensuring that the intent of this law is met and that detainments are appropriate.

6.2.3 For all youths, including youths not presently involved with DPBHS, DPBHS will collect aggregate data from psychiatric facilities in the form of a monthly report. This report will include: number of detainments per Juvenile Mental Health Screener, number of incidents where a screener determined a detainment was not necessary, admitting facility, the client patient number, the date of detainment, demographic information (age, race, sex, and zip code) of the child's primary residence, and other factors deemed necessary by DPBHS), screener name and number, presenting problem, and the reason the detainment was necessary. Psychiatric facilities will be responsible for including such data for patients detained by the eligible entity's Juvenile Mental Health Screeners, as well as Juvenile Mental Health Screeners not employed by or contracted with the eligible entity.

6.2.4 If DPBHS deems it necessary to review specific or aggregate detainments in cases of youths who are not DPBHS involved, DPBHS shall, within 24 hours of request, be provided a redacted copy of the Emergency Detainment Request Form by the Juvenile Mental Health Screener and/or the eligible entity.

6.3 Data Review and Reporting. The Juvenile Mental Health Screeners and/or eligible entities are responsible for record keeping and making available to DPBHS as required by this regulation, DPBHS Emergency Detainment

Request Forms and associated records. DPBHS will periodically monitor these records for compliance. The Juvenile Mental Health Screeners and/or their associated eligible entity will also be responsible for maintaining a database in a format that is approved by DPBHS and that will be reported to DPBHS as set forth in subsection 6.2.3 of this regulation, so that DPBHS may review aggregate data. This database will include administrative information, such as the admitting facility, the client patient number, the date of detainment, demographic information (age, race, sex, zip code) of the child's primary residence, and other factors deemed necessary by DPBHS), screener name and number, presenting problem, and the reason the detainment was necessary.

- 6.3.1 DPBHS will collect aggregate data of juvenile mental health screener detentions, which will be available to the public.
- 6.3.2 Detainment data will be reviewed to monitor for anomalies in detainment rates to assure juvenile mental health screener performance improvement and compliance with this regulation, the authorizing statutes, and principals of least restrictive environment and community integration.

7.0 Suspension or Revocation of Juvenile Mental Health Screener

- 7.1 The following outlines circumstances under which a credential may be suspended or revoked. DPBHS will monitor individuals and general facilities performing juvenile mental health screenings and detaining individuals for 24 – 72 hours under this regulation as specified in Section 6.0. Nothing in Section 6.0 relieves juvenile mental health screeners of the requirement to keep their own records on their work to detain or not detain individuals that they assess. Copies of the Emergency Detainment Request Form are sufficient documentation if the individual juvenile mental health screener or organization that supports these screeners keeps this information protected and confidential under federal law. Compliance with federal laws on this documentation is the responsibility of the individual who has been credentialed as a Juvenile Mental Health Screener.
 - 7.1.1 Failure of any credentialed Juvenile Mental Health Screeners to be aware of, and operate in compliance with, the federal and state laws pertaining to protection of health records. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in immediate suspension of the Juvenile Mental Health Screener credential.
 - 7.1.2 Suspension or revocation of a professional license will result in the immediate revocation of the Juvenile Mental Health Screener credential.
 - 7.1.3 For licensed non-physician mental health professionals, loss of a current contract or employment relationship with a DSCYF operated facility, DSCYF crisis services, or a Delaware licensed mental health hospital under contract with the DSCYF.
 - 7.1.4 Failure to comply with the conflict of interest provisions of 14 Del.C. §5004.
 - 7.1.5 Due to concerns with performance, which can include inappropriate overuse of emergency detainments or failure to identify minors in need of detainment, as identified by the DSCYF reviewing psychiatrist or an Emergency Detention of Juveniles Review Board designated by the Secretary, which are uncorrected after written warning from the DSCYF.
 - 7.1.6 Due to concerns with performance identified by a complaint or appeal submitted to DPBHS's Quality Assurance Department. The DPBHS Quality Assurance Department will refer any such complaints or appeals to DPBHS's reviewing psychiatrist for evaluation.
- 7.2 Compliance with notification of this revocation is the responsibility of the individual who has been credentialed as a Juvenile Mental Health Screener and, in the case of non-physicians, the eligible entity with whom the individual is affiliated.
- 7.3 Reinstatement of Juvenile Mental Health Screener status of an individual for whom a credential has been suspended or revoked will be at the discretion of DPBHS, in light of circumstances surrounding the original suspension or revocation.

8.0 Appeal Process

Any individual or eligible entity affiliated with an individual who has been denied status as a juvenile mental health screener or who has had a screening credential suspended or revoked can appeal this decision by writing to the DPBHS Director. Such an appeal, based on knowledge and facts of this event, must be made within twenty (20) days of the denial, suspension, or revocation. A response by the DPBHS Director will be forthcoming within thirty (30) days of DPBHS receiving the appeal.

9.0 Consent for Voluntary Admissions

In the case of voluntary admission to a designated psychiatric treatment facility or hospital, consent to treatment of a minor shall be given only by a parent or legal guardian. The request for admission to the designated psychiatric treatment

facility or hospital shall be signed by either the applicant's parent or legal guardian.

10.0 Payment for Voluntary and Involuntary Admissions

Payment to hospitals for voluntary and involuntary admissions of clients in crisis will be in accordance with the provisions of 16 Del.C. §§5019, 5020, and 29 Del.C. §9019.

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