

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE: Changes in Procedures for Medicaid Reimbursement for School-Based Behavioral Health Services**

The DHH Medicaid Office has submitted a rule change to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that will allow behavioral health services provided by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to be 'carved out' of the standard reimbursement process that is used by other public and private providers. Approval of this rule change is expected in late October 2015.

Pending CMS approval of the rule change, the Office of Behavioral Health has agreed to allow the LEAs to bill for behavioral health services using the same process followed for other related services provided by the LEA such as OT, PT, and SLT, etc. as long as the behavioral health services are provided in accordance with the student's current IEP.

### **Impact on the LEAs**

1. June 30, 2015 is the last date that the LEAs will be required to enter Behavioral Health Services in SER/RSM.
2. LEAs may elect to continue using the SER/RSM after that June 30 as a means to document behavioral health services or they may elect to use their own process.
3. DHH Medicaid will be responsible for verifying that all behavioral health services were provided in accordance with the student's current IEP.
4. The Department of Education has tentatively established September 30, 2015, as the final date in which the LEAs will submit all behavioral health claims for SY 14-15 behavioral health under the current process using the SER/RSM system. Any claims not submitted after this final date will not be processed. LEAs will be notified when the final date for submitting claims has been confirmed.
5. LEAs will still be required to complete all components of the cost settlement process to be eligible for reimbursement for BH services.
6. LEAs will still be required to submit the annual OBH application by July 1 of each year for certification in order to receive reimbursement for behavioral health services.
7. LEA will not be required to contract with any of the Bayou Health Plans in order to receive reimbursement for Behavioral Health services.
8. Beginning July 1, 2015, the LEAs will begin using the same reimbursement process for behavioral health claims that is used for other related services.

This change in the billing process will require the LEAs to hold **all** claims for Behavioral Health services until final approval is received, which is expected in late October, 2015. After final approval is received, the LEAs will be notified and will be able to submit claims for Behavioral Health services provided **beginning July 1, 2015**.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Comeaux at 225.342.7059 or via email at [Michael.Comeaux@la.gov](mailto:Michael.Comeaux@la.gov) or Janice Zube, DOE Liaison to CSoC, at 225.342.4373 or via email at [Janice.zube2@la.gov](mailto:Janice.zube2@la.gov).