



## East Carolina Behavioral Health

*serving...Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Gates, Hertford, Jones,  
Northampton, Pamlico, & Pitt counties*

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To: Consumers, Families, Providers and Stakeholders

From: Cindy Ehlers, MS, LPC, Assistant Area Director

Date: October 6, 2009

Re: Authorization Guidelines for IPRS funded services

On October 16, 2009 the Governor restored a portion of funds previously cut by the General assembly for the current fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2009.

**After soliciting input from our provider network and Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC), ECBH has made the decision to maintain the decrease Group Living Moderate (AMH, ASA and ADD) rate by 10% effective November 1, 2009.** Cutting this rates is projected to help fill some of the void AMHC sustained in recent budget reductions and will allow consumers to remain in services or to get needed services versus cutting service categories entirely or reducing units available in the benefit plan or reducing eligibility for services more than the current plan indicates.

ECBH will also increase the funds available to support public psychiatry and outpatient therapy services. ECBH has designated additional dollars to support and enhance the role of Mobile Crisis in all 10 counties that make up the AMHC area including continued support to hospital emergency rooms.

We recognize and appreciate that there may still be some disruption in services for consumers during this very difficult transition related to state budget cuts and the past financial failure of the AMHC program. We know that this is very frustrating for consumers and families and providers. When we make these adjustments to benefits we are making necessary adjustments to effectively manage the limited money we have. It is still our intention to ensure that we make the funds that we do receive last the entire fiscal year and that those funds are used for individuals who have the most significant needs in the AMHC coverage area.

These are the revised authorization guidelines impacted by the restoration of funding by the Governor. These benefits and all others discussed in previous bulletins are intended to meet the needs of individuals within the current available financial resources. Please note that these guidelines apply to services funded through State dollars, and do not apply to services funded by Medicaid or Health Choice.

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**Developmental Therapy- Developmental Therapy is available but will be limited to no more than 10 hours per week per individual.** Developmental Therapy will only be provided as a Para-professional service. This benefit will not be available to children or adults who receive CAP MR/DD waiver funding those recipients should utilize day supports, home and community supports, personal care or other waiver services. Individuals who receive Group Living, Supervised Living, Alternative Family Living, Day Activity, Personal Assistance or Adult Day Vocational Program will not be eligible to receive Developmental Therapy services.

**Adult Day Vocational Program-** Effective July 1, 2009, **Each program should have the capacity to offer new slots for admission.** Individuals who get this service cannot receive Developmental Therapy, Personal Assistance or Day Activity. This service will not be available to recipients who receive Medicaid CAP MR/DD funding as CAP funding pays for Day Supports instead and Day Supports should be utilized to fund this service for waiver recipients in lieu of state dollars. People currently getting this service will be authorized up to 6 hours a day 5 days a week. **Any individual that is denied admission should contact Cindy Ehlers, ECBH Clinical Director at 252-639-7703**

**Services not mentioned here are not impacted.** East Carolina Behavioral Health will continue to evaluate spending in all service categories as well as the impact of budget allocations or reductions from the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities or Substance Abuse Services. Please review the current benefit plan posted on our website to see all the benefits that are available at [www.ecbhime.org](http://www.ecbhime.org)

If you have questions or need clarification about these or any other service needs please feel free to contact Cindy Ehlers, Assistant Area Director 252-639-7703 or email at [cehlers@ecbhime.org](mailto:cehlers@ecbhime.org) .