March 15, 2019

To: Local Mental Health Authorities  
Local Behavioral Health Authorities

Subject: Broadcast Message No. 19.013  
Providing Crisis Services to Individuals in Need

The Health and Human Services Commission reminds Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) and Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) of their responsibility to provide crisis assessments and crisis services to all individuals in need, regardless of an individual’s county of residence.

Requirements are described in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and Community Mental Health Performance Contract:

- 25 TAC Section 412.161, Screening and Assessment:
  
  *Crisis services. An LMHA shall ensure immediate screenings and assessments of any person found in the LMHA’s local service area who is in crisis in accordance with 25 TAC, Section 412.314 of this title (relating to Crisis Services).*

  The LMHA/LBHA recommending treatment is responsible for coordinating with the LMHA/LBHA in the individual’s county of residence to ensure service continuity. When treatment options are not available in the county in which the screening has occurred, the LMHA/LBHA that performed the crisis assessment is responsible for contacting the LMHA/LBHA in the individual’s county of residence to determine the availability of treatment options.

- Performance Contract, Information Item V, Crisis Service Standards:

  *Coordination of crisis services consists of linking the individual with all available services necessary to stabilize the behavioral health crisis and ensure transition to routine care, providing necessary assistance in accessing those services, conducting follow-up and relapse*
prevention services to determine the individual’s status and need for further service. This includes contacting and coordinating with the individual’s existing service providers in a timely manner and in conformance with applicable confidentiality requirements.

- 25 TAC, Chapter 412 provides further detail on the provision and coordination of crisis services, specifically Access to Mental Health Community Standards Section 412.314(h)(1) and Crisis Services Section 412.321(f).

LMHAs/LBHAs can view this broadcast at https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/behavioral-health-services-providers/local-mental-health-authorities under “IDD-BH Broadcast Messages.”

If you have questions about this broadcast please email CrisisServices@hhsc.state.tx.us

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

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Health and Human Services Commission