pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE:	NUMBER:
May 16, 2016	Immediately	OMHSAS-16-06

SUBJECT:	BY:
Payment for Room and Board When Services are Provided by a CARF or COA Accredited Residential Treatment Facility	**Dennis Marion** **Deputy Secretary** **Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

SCOPE:

County MH/ID Programs
Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations
Residential Treatment Facilities

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and the Council on Accreditation (COA) of changes to the requirement that an RTF request a waiver of the requirement that it be accredited by the Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)) to receive payment through the Medical Assistance (MA) program for medically necessary services and room and board. These changes apply to both the behavioral health managed care and the Fee for Service delivery systems.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin 01-93-04, “Payment for Mental Health Services Provided in a Residential Treatment Facility for Eligible Individuals Under 21 Years of Age” and MA Bulletin 01-95-12, “Mental Health Services Provided in a Non-JCAHO Accredited Residential Facility for Children Under 21 Years of Age,” an RTF for children under 21 years of age must be accredited by the Joint Commission to receive payment through the MA program for medically necessary services, in addition to room and board. After the issuance of the bulletins, federal regulations were revised to allow RTFs to obtain in addition to Joint Commission accreditation, CARF and COA accreditation. See 42 C.F.R § 440.160(b)(2) (relating to inpatient psychiatric services for individuals under age 21) and 42 C.F.R. § 441.151(a)(2)(ii) (relating to general requirements).

As a result of this change, RTFs that have either CARF or COA accreditation became eligible to receive MA payment for the costs related to room and board. However, RTFs with COA or CARF accreditation were required to obtain annual waivers of the requirement in the MA Bulletins that they be accredited by the Joint Commission to receive payment for room and

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children’s Behavioral Health Services P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. General Office Number: 717-705-8289.

board. The Department of Human Services (Department) used the request for an annual waiver to assist it with tracking RTF accreditation.

PROCEDURE:

The Department will no longer require that RTFs that are accredited by CARF or COA obtain annual waivers of the requirement that they be accredited by the Joint Commission in order to receive payment for costs related to room and board for the children placed in their facilities. The Department has developed other methods to track RTF accreditation. In addition, the Department is seeking to decrease the administrative burden on RTFs, Department staff, and Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations. The MA program will continue to not pay the costs related to room and board for children placed in RTFs that are not accredited by the Joint Commission, CARF, or COA.

RELATED BULLETINS:

Medical Assistance Bulletin 01-93-04: Payment for Mental Health Services Provided in a Residential Treatment Facility for Eligible Individuals Under 21 Years of Age.

Mental Health Bulletin 4000-95-01: Room and Board Payments for Mental Health Only Children in Residential Facilities Which Are Not JCAHO Accredited.

Medical Assistance Bulletin 01-95-12: Mental Health Services Provided In a Non-JCAHO Accredited Residential Facility for Children Under 21 Years of Age.