

May 6, 2003

Dear Stakeholder:

As you know, over the past several months the State Office of Mental Health has been conducting presentations statewide on the draft design elements of the new licensed outpatient program model, Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS). Based on extensive feedback received at these presentations, and the comments and questions that were submitted by a broad array of PROS stakeholders, OMH has made a number of substantive changes to the PROS program design. The attachments to this communication outline both the key issues that stakeholders have identified and the changes that have been made to address these issues.

Many of the stakeholder comments and questions were concentrated in the following areas, and so the program design changes are largely focused here as well:

- Preserving consumer choice
- The need for flexibility to address the unique needs of the various program models required to convert to PROS
- Providing incentives to increase employment rates
- Article 28 provider participation in PROS
- Adequate access to intensive rehabilitation services to meet recipient needs
- Standards for staff-to-client ratios and the number/type of professional staff
- Adequate reimbursement to serve people in need

It should be noted that all of the descriptions of PROS, including the documents in this package, should be considered drafts, pending final approval of the PROS State Plan Amendment by the Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The following next steps in the PROS implementation process will be taking place over the upcoming weeks, with a target date of July to begin accepting Prior Approval Review (PAR) applications for programs proposing to convert to PROS:

1. The State Medicaid Plan will be amended to include the PROS program.
2. Proposed fiscal regulations will be filed with the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform (GORR) and the public comment period will be initiated.
3. Local governments and OMH will work with potential PROS providers to plan the conversion of individual programs, consistent with the local services plan for the configuration of PROS within the county.

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4. A PAR application package, including program guidelines, will be disseminated and the PAR review process will be initiated.

Thank you for all of your constructive input into our PROS development efforts to date. We look forward to continuing to work with you to implement this exciting new service model in your communities.

Sincerely,

Linda Rosenberg
Senior Deputy Commissioner

Attachments

cc: OMH Cabinet
OMH Senior Staff
OMH Field Office Directors
PROS Workgroup Members