

ADDICTIVE AND MENTAL DISORDERS DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE RULE AMENDMENTS

Montana Health Coalition
March 14, 2012

- Effective April 1, 2012, Administrative Rule amendments will become effective that adopt Revised Standards for Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT). The Department became aware of inconsistent interpretation of program Standards by providers and has taken this step to ensure consistent and effective application of program requirement and standards across agencies.
- The Department has proposed amendments to rules to modify the process for awarding matching grants to counties for crisis stabilization and jail diversion (HB130) from funds appropriated each biennium by the Legislature. The proposed amendments are needed because the current process for awarding annual grants has been cumbersome and labor-intensive. The Legislative appropriation is substantially less than the requests for grant funding and the current practice solicits more applications than can be approved.
 - The proposed amendments eliminate the requirement for a Letter of Intent from any county wishing to submit an application for grant funds. Because of limited funding, some counties that submitted a Letter of Intent and an application are not given consideration for an award.
 - The proposed amendments establish that grant applications that continue or expand activities implemented during a previous grant cycle would be given priority over new applications.
 - The proposed amendments permit the Department to award biennial grants provided that an annual report has been submitted at the end of the first year.
- The Department will propose amendments this month to the Administrative Rule pertaining to the Home and Community Based Waiver for Adults with Severe Disabling Mental Illness. The proposed amendments are necessary changes to the Home and Community Based Waiver for persons with Severe Disabling Mental Illness and will improve the services provided, adjust details that have proven problematic, and enhance the recovery of persons served under the waiver. The proposed amendments add three new services to the waiver; add a section of definitions of terms used in the rule; modifies the requirements for the nurse and social worker on the waiver case management team; and adds Lewis & Clark County as a new waiver site. The services added are
 - Community Transition Services are non-recurring set-up expenses for individuals transitioning from Montana State Hospital, Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, or a long-term care facility. This service does not include monthly rental or mortgage expenses, food, regular utility charges, and/or household appliances or items intended for diversion/recreational purposes.
 - Pain and Symptom Managements Services allow for traditional and nontraditional methods of pain reduction and/or management. These services add an alternative to medication intervention to alleviate pain and manage symptoms.
 - Health and Wellness Services assist consumers in acquiring and maintaining activities that will support recovery in the community, including classes on weight loss, smoking cessation, and healthy lifestyles.