FRESNO COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

GRIEVANCES AND INCIDENT REPORTING

Grievances

Fresno County Mental Health Plan (MHP) provides beneficiaries with a grievance and appeal process and an expedited appeal process to resolve grievances and disputes at the earliest and the lowest possible level.

Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations requires that the MHP and its fee-for-service providers give verbal and written information to Medi-Cal beneficiaries regarding the following:

- How to access specialty mental health services
- How to file a grievance about services
- How to file for a State Fair Hearing

The MHP has developed a Consumer Guide, a beneficiary rights poster, a grievance form, an appeal form, and Request for Change of Provider Form. All of these beneficiary materials must be posted in prominent locations where Medi-Cal beneficiaries receive outpatient specialty mental health services, including the waiting rooms of providers' offices of service.

Please note that all fee-for-service providers and contract agencies are required to give their clients copies of all current beneficiary information annually at the time their treatment plans are updated and at intake.

Beneficiaries have the right to use the grievance and/or appeal process without any penalty, change in mental health services, or any form of retaliation. All Medi-Cal beneficiaries can file an appeal or state hearing.

Grievances and appeals forms and self addressed envelopes must be available for beneficiaries to pick up at all provider sites without having to make a verbal or written request. Forms can be sent to the following address:

Fresno County Mental Health Plan
P.O. Box 712
Fresno, CA 93712
(800) 654-3937 (for more information)
(559) 488-3055 (TTY)

Provider Problem Resolution and Appeals Process

The MHP uses a simple, informal procedure in identifying and resolving provider concerns and problems regarding payment authorization issues, other complaints and concerns.

Informal provider problem resolution process – the provider may first speak to a Provider Relations Specialist (PRS) regarding his or her complaint or concern.

The PRS will attempt to settle the complaint or concern with the provider. If the attempt is unsuccessful and the provider chooses to forego the informal grievance process, the provider will be advised to file a written complaint to the MHP address (listed above).

Formal provider appeal process – the provider has the right to access the provider appeal process at any time before, during, or after the provider problem resolution process has begun, when the complaint concerns a denied or modified request for MHP payment authorization, or the process or payment of a provider's claim to the MHP.

Payment authorization issues – the provider may appeal a denied or modified request for payment authorization or a dispute with the MHP regarding the processing or payment of a provider's claim to the MHP. The written appeal must be submitted to the MHP within 90 calendar days of the date of the receipt of the non-approval of payment.

The MHP shall have 60 calendar days from its receipt of the appeal to inform the provider in writing of the decision, including a statement of the reasons for the decision that addresses each issue raised by the provider, and any action required by the provider to implement the decision.

If the appeal concerns a denial or modification of payment authorization request, the MHP utilizes a Managed Care staff who was not involved in the initial denial or modification decision to determine the appeal decision.

If the Managed Care staff reverses the appealed decision, the provider will be asked to submit a revised request for payment within 30 calendar days of receipt of the decision

Other complaints – if there are other issues or complaints, which are not related to payment authorization issues, providers are encouraged to send a letter of complaint to the MHP. The provider will receive a written response from the MHP within 60 calendar days of receipt of the complaint. The decision rendered buy the MHP is final.

PROTOCOL FOR COMPLETION OF INCIDENT REPORT

- The Incident Report must be completed for all incidents involving clients. The staff person who becomes aware of the incident completes this form, and the supervisor co-signs it.
- When more than one client is involved in an incident, a separate form must be completed for each client.

Where the forms should be sent - within 24 hours from the time of the incident

- Incident Report should be sent to:
- DBH Program Supervisor

INCIDENT REPORT WORKSHEET

When did this happen? (date/time) _____ Where did this happen? _____

Name/DMH # _____

1. Background information of the incident:

2. Method of investigation: (chart review, face-to-face interview, etc.)

Who was affected? (If other than consumer) _____

List key people involved. (witnesses, visitors, physicians, employees)

_____

_____

_____

3. Preliminary findings: How did it happen? Sequence of events. Be specific. If attachments are needed write comments on an 8 1/2 sheet of paper and attach to worksheet.

Outcome severity: *Nonexistent* ☐ *inconsequential* ☐ *consequential* ☐ *death* ☐ *not applicable* ☐ *unknown* ☐

4. Response: a) corrective action, b) Plan of Action, c) other

Completed by (print name) _____

Completed by (signature) _____ Date completed _____

Reviewed by Supervisor (print name) _____

Supervisor Signature Date