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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers

FROM: Azahar V. Lopez, PsyD, Assistant Deputy Director Quality Management Services

RE: Other Qualified Provider (OQP) Type

The California [State Plan Amendment 22-023](#) approved by the Center for Medicaid Services on March 2nd, 2023, approved and defined the Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Other Qualified Provider (OQP) type to be: An individual at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent degree plus two years of related paid or non-paid experience (including experience as a service recipient or caregiver of a service recipient), or related secondary education. OQP is a State Plan provider category. OQP is not a job classification within the County system, and this provider type may be employed under various titles in different contract programs or county sites.

The Orange County Behavioral Health Plan (BHP) has further defined the State Plan's Other Qualified Provider type to include additional qualifications in order to provide an opportunity for professional growth within the series (Other Qualified Provider I, II) and to allow for more providers who can serve the Specialty Mental Health population to be hired into the BHP and to appropriately bill for services through the Medi-Cal Short-Doyle system.

OQP I Qualifications:

An individual at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or GED
PLUS two (2) years of related paid or non-paid experience (including experience as a service recipient or caregiver of a service recipient) or related secondary education.

OQP II Qualifications:

An individual at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or GED
PLUS four (4) years of related paid or non-paid experience in mental health service provision.

Education equivalencies:

- (A) Completion of an AA degree in a related field may be used to substitute up to 1 year of the required related paid or non-paid experience in mental health service provision.

(B) Completion of an BA/BS degree in a related field may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the required related paid or non-paid experience in mental health service provision.

Examples of providers that may fall under each category (not exhaustive or exclusive):

OQPI: Mental Health Worker I or II, Peer (Non Medi-Cal certified Peer Support Specialist), Mental Health Specialist, Case Manager, Parent Partner, Personal Services Coordinator, Recovery Counselor

OQP II: Mental Health Worker II or III, Mental Health Specialist, Case Manager, Care Coordinator, Counselor

It is up to each supervisor to determine the correct placement of the OQP based on each provider’s education and experience and not only job title.

Other Qualified Provider Type Scope of Practice

SMHS Approved Services	OQP I	OQP II
Contribute to specific portions of BH Assessment: MH history, Med history, substance use, strengths, risks, barriers	NO	~*YES
Problem List / Targeted Care Plan	~YES	~YES
Crisis Intervention	NO	NO
Rehabilitation Services	NO	~YES
Case Management	~YES	~YES
Intensive Home-Based Services	NO	~YES
Intensive Care Coordination	+YES	+YES

~ Under direct supervision of LPHA/LMHP

* Requires close supervision if issues of DTS or DTO are present

+Integrated Care Practice Model knowledge is required.

Other Qualified Provider Type Supervision Requirements

The OQP is required to be under the direction of a mental health provider. According to the State Plan Amendment, approved on March 2, 2023, and effective July 1, 2022:

“Under the direction of” means that the individual directing service is acting as a clinical team leader, providing direct or functional supervision of service delivery. An individual directing a service is not required to be physically present at the service site to exercise direction. The licensed professional directing a service assumes ultimate responsibility for the Rehabilitative Mental Health Service provided. Services are provided under the direction of a physician; a

licensed or waived psychologist; a licensed, waived or registered social worker; a licensed, waived or registered marriage and family therapist; a licensed, waived or registered professional clinical counselor, or a registered nurse (including a certified nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner). All providers of Rehabilitative Mental Health Services must act within the scope of their professional license and applicable state law.

Quality Management Services has developed a Qualified Provider Supervision Form that lists the OQPs contact information, NPI number and their assigned supervisor's contact information, license or registration number, and supervision term. This form constitutes an attestation that the OQP is under supervision and requires all county and contracted programs to ensure that a qualified mental health provider is directing services for this provider type.

This form should be completed upon hiring, when changes to supervisory assignments occur and at termination of the supervisory relationship.

Quality Management Services does not define the supervision process, frequency nor the documentation requirements related to this activity, as this is left to the assigned supervisor's discretion to develop and track.

Contact AQISSupportTeams@ochca.com or AQISManagedCare@ochca.com directly for clarification or questions related to this information.

Thank you,

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Enclosures: Qualified Provider Supervision Reporting Form