

Title of Rule: Revision to the Medical Assistance Act concerning Mobile Crisis Response Crisis Professional, Section 8.020.A-D
Rule Number: MSB 25-02-07-A
Division / Contact / Phone: Policy Development and Implementation / Erica Schaler / 303-803-5607

STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

1. Summary of the basis and purpose for the rule or rule change. (State what the rule says or does and explain why the rule or rule change is necessary).

The purpose of this rule is to align with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) rules for Mobile Crisis Response by adding Crisis Professional requirements. The BHA is the oversight agency for Mobile Crisis Response and thus it is imperative that the Department aligns with the BHA rules.

2. An emergency rule-making is imperatively necessary

to comply with state or federal law or federal regulation and/or
 for the preservation of public health, safety and welfare.

Explain:N/A

3. Federal authority for the Rule, if any:

N/A

4. State Authority for the Rule:

Volume 2 CCR 502-1 Chapter 6.5.4; C.R.S. §§ 25.5-1-303(1), (3)(a), (3)(c), and (3)(f); 25.5-4-401(1)(a) and (2)

C.R.S. §§ 25.5-1-301 through 25.5-1-303 (2025);

Initial Review
Proposed Effective Date

06/13/25
08/30/25

Final Adoption
Emergency Adoption

07/11/25

DOCUMENT #10

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REGULATORY ANALYSIS

1. Describe the classes of persons who will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule and classes that will benefit from the proposed rule.

The Health First Colorado members who utilize the Mobile Crisis Response benefit will be affected as a Crisis Professional will be a part of the Mobile Crisis Response team responding to behavioral health crises. This Crisis Professional has specialized training to provide crisis intervention.

This rule is cost neutral as it simply aligns Department rules with the Behavioral Health Administration who is the oversight agency for Mobile Crisis Response.

2. To the extent practicable, describe the probable quantitative and qualitative impact of the proposed rule, economic or otherwise, upon affected classes of persons.

This will have a qualitative impact on Health First Colorado members utilizing the Mobile Crisis benefit as they will have access to care by a trained Crisis Professional.

3. Discuss the probable costs to the Department and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule and any anticipated effect on state revenues.

There is no anticipated cost to the Department nor to any other agency of implementation. There is no anticipated effect on state revenues.

4. Compare the probable costs and benefits of the proposed rule to the probable costs and benefits of inaction.

There is no probable cost of the proposed rule. The benefit is that Department rules will be aligned with the Behavioral Health Administration's rules. There is no benefit of inaction.

5. Determine whether there are less costly methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

There are no less costly methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the proposed rule.

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6. Describe any alternative methods for achieving the purpose for the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the Department and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule.

Because the addition of a new requirement for Mobile Crisis response teams cannot be captured without a rule change, there were no alternative methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the Department.

1 **8.020 MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE**

2 **8.020.A DEFINITIONS**

3 1. Behavioral Health Crisis means a significant disruption in a person's mental or emotional
4 stability or functioning resulting in an urgent need for immediate assessment and
5 treatment to prevent a further or serious deterioration in the person's mental or physical
6 health.

7 2. Crisis Professional means any person who is receiving or has received crisis professional
8 curriculum training approved by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) specific to
9 crisis assessment, management, de-escalation, safety planning and all relevant laws and
10 provisions such that training is complete, and the person can lead a crisis response.

11 3. Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) means the community-based brief intervention,
12 stabilization, and de-escalation of a member experiencing a Behavioral Health Crisis.

13 **8.020.B MEMBER ELIGIBILITY**

14 1. All Health First Colorado ~~Medicaid~~ members are eligible for MCR services.

15 **8.020.C PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY**

16 1. A Health First Colorado Medicaid enrolled provider that is endorsed as a MCR provider
17 by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) is eligible to receive reimbursement for
18 MCR covered services.

19 **8.020.D COVERED SERVICES**

20 1. MCR covered services include:

21 a. Community-based crisis interventions to members in self-defined Behavioral
22 Health Crises, such interventions include:

23 i. Screening,

24 ii. Assessment,

25 iii. De-escalation,

26 iv. Safety planning, and

27 v. Coordination with culturally responsive referrals to appropriate
28 resources, including health, social, and other services and supports.

29 2. The following requirements must be met for coverage of MCR services:

30 a. MCR providers must meet a member where they are in the community (most
31 commonly at home or at a location in the community requested by the caller)
32 within one (1) hour of dispatch to urban areas, and within two (2) hours of
33 dispatch to rural and frontier areas.

