



OPERATIONAL MEMO

Title: New Service Mental Health Transitional Living Home	Topic: Mental Health Transitional Living Homes
Audience: HCBS Providers, Case Managers, Members, Families, Advocates	Sub-Topic: Mental Health Transitional Living Homes
Supersedes Number: N/A	Division: Benefits & Services Management Division
Effective Date: August 1, 2023	Office: Office of Community Living
Expiration Date: August 1, 2024	Program Area: HCBS Services
Key Words: Benefits and Services, Home and Community-Based Services, HCBS, Community Mental Health Supports Waiver, Mental Health Transitional Living Homes, Residential Behavioral Health Beds, Assisted Living residences, Case Management Agencies, Behavioral Health Administration, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, HB 22-1303	
Legal Authority: House Bill 22-1303	
Memo Author: Devin Rathmann	
Operational Memo Number: HCPF OM 23-052	
Issue Date: August 25, 2023	
Approved By: Candace Bailey	

HCPF Memo Series can be accessed online: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/memo-series>

Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform all Case Management Agencies, service providers, members and interested stakeholders about a new Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) benefit available under the Community Mental Health Supports waiver (CMHS). Mental Health Transitional Living homes (MHTL) will be a new residential benefit available to members on the CMHS Waiver, beginning Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.

Information: The Mental Health Transitional Living (MHTL) waiver service was created because of [House Bill 22-1303](#). This new service aims to address the increasing need of residential behavioral health beds available statewide to Medicaid members who need step down, transitional living in the community post institutionalization at the

state's Mental Health Institutes. The bill directs the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to create, develop, and/or contract to add at least 125 additional beds for the purposes of transitional living. A portion of the beds will be for HCBS members on the CMHS waiver, while the remaining beds will be more therapeutic in nature and provided under the State Plan, available to any Health First Colorado member that meets the MHTL eligibility.

This HCBS Service will be available to any member on the CMHS waiver that requires the specialized services provided under the MHTL as determined by assessed need. The Mental Health Transitional Living service will include protective oversight and supervision; assistance with medication; community participation; recreational and social activities; intensive case management/care coordination; housing planning and navigation services as appropriate for members experiencing homelessness/at risk for homelessness; life skills training/Activities of Daily Living (ADL) support as needed; and therapeutic services, which may include but is not limited to individual and group therapy, medication management, etc. As with other residential services, room and board is not covered under the service.

Action To Be Taken:

Case Manager Information

If a member is interested in this service and believes it would be a good fit, they are encouraged to speak to their case manager. Case managers will need to complete a referral form through CDHS ([found here](#)) to ensure the member meets the placement criteria. The Admissions and Coordination team within CDHS will review the referral and provide a response within five (5) business days. If accepted, the Admissions and Coordination team will schedule a pre-admission meeting and begin the admission process. The case manager will then need to add the MHTL service to the member's Prior Authorization Request (PAR). Case managers will not need to complete a Post Eligibility Treatment of Income (PETI) form, as PETI is not required for this service. Any income remaining post payment for room and board is maintained by the member as personal needs funds.

Provider Information

All MHTL homes will be operated or contracted by CDHS or the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Although providers will contract with CDHS, providers will also be required to enroll with HCPF to bill for services. The procedure codes and rate information can be found on the Department [fee schedule](#) located under the CMHS waiver. MHTL providers must be [enrolled](#) with HCPF to render services under provider type 36, specialty 755. They must be licensed as an Assisted Living Residence (ALR)

and receive a recommendation for MHTL Certification from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). Enrollment questions can be addressed by HCPF's fiscal agent, [Gainwell Technologies](#).

Definition(s):

None

Attachment(s):

None

HCPF Contact:

HCPF_HCBS_Questions@state.co.us