

REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS (BHOs)

Fact Sheet, October 2011

What are BHOs? BHOs are entities with experience and demonstrated expertise managing behavioral health services for individuals with substance use and serious mental illness. In January 2011 Governor Cuomo created a Medicaid Redesign Team to find ways to increase quality and efficiency in the Medicaid program and reduce cost. One of the recommendations enacted into law gives the Commissioners of the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) the authority to contract jointly with Managed Behavioral Health Organizations. BHOs are entities with experience and demonstrated expertise managing behavioral health services for individuals with substance use and serious mental illness.

What will BHOs do? Phase 1 BHOs will monitor inpatient behavioral health services within their regions for Medicaid-enrolled individuals whose inpatient behavioral health services are not covered by (i.e., “carved out” of) a Medicaid Managed Care plan and who also are not enrolled in Medicare. In most cases, Phase I BHOs will begin operations in the fall of 2011 and will be fully implemented by January 2012. Phase 2 BHOs will begin in 2013 and will include some form of risk-bearing Medicaid managed care for adults and children with serious mental health issues or substance use disorders.

Phase 1 BHOs will be responsible for:

- Concurrent review of behavioral health inpatient length of stay
- Reducing behavioral health inpatient readmission rates
- Improving rates of engagement in outpatient treatment post discharge
- Gathering information on the clinical conditions of children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance who are covered by Medicaid Managed Care and receiving treatment in an OMH licensed specialty clinic
- Profiling provider performance and testing performance metrics
- Facilitating cross-systems linkage

Which services will receive concurrent review?

- All fee-for-service admissions to OMH-licensed psychiatric units (all ages) in general hospitals (Article 28 hospitals)
- Fee-for-service children and youth admitted to OMH licensed private psychiatric hospitals (Article 31 hospitals)
- Fee-for-service direct admissions to OMH State-operated children’s psychiatric centers or children’s units of psychiatric centers
- Fee-for-service OASAS Certified Part 816 Inpatient Detoxification Services (Article 28/32)
- Fee-for-service OASAS certified hospital (Art 28/32) or freestanding (Article 32 only) Part 818 Chemical Dependence Inpatient Rehabilitation Services

Where can I get more information on my BHO?

	BHO	OMH Field Office	OASAS Field Office
Central Region:	Magellan Health Services Deb Happ, VP Operations dahapp@magellanhealth.com (443) 622-6704	Central New York Field Office Pam Wondro, Director Pamela.wondro@omh.ny.gov (315) 426-3930	Kathy Murphy Upstate Field Operations (585) 231-1695
Hudson River Region	Community Care Behavioral Health Kelly Lauletta, LCSW, Regional Director laulettak@ccbh.com (347) 633-2936	Hudson River Field Office Marcia Fazio, Director Marcia.fazio@omh.ny.gov (845) 454-8229	
Western Region	New York Care Coordination Project Adele Gregory Gorges, Executive Director agorges@ccsi.org (585) 613-7656	Western New York Field Office Tom Wallace, Director Tom.wallace@omh.ny.gov (716) 533-4075	
New York City:	OptumHealth Suzanne B. Feeney, MBA General Manager, Medicaid, Behavioral Solutions Suzanne.feeney@optum.com (518) 951-2452	New York City Field Office Anita Appel, Director Anita.appel@omh.ny.gov (212) 330-1650	Steven Rabinowitz Downstate Field Operations (646) 728-4533
Long Island	To be determined	To be determined Long Island Field Office (631) 761-2508	