

WAC 182-538D-0200 Behavioral health services—Definitions. The following definitions and those found in chapters 182-500, 182-538, and 182-538C WAC apply to this chapter. If conflict exists, this chapter takes precedence.

"Adult" means a person age eighteen or older. For purposes of the medicaid program, people age eighteen through age twenty have the early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment (EPSDT) benefit described in chapter 182-534 WAC. In the medicaid program, EPSDT is available until a person reaches age twenty-one.

"Assessment" means the process of obtaining all pertinent biopsychosocial information, as identified by the person, and family and collateral sources, for determining a diagnosis and to plan individualized services and supports.

"Behavioral health" means the prevention, treatment of, and recovery from substance use disorders, mental health disorders or problem and pathological gambling disorders.

"Behavioral health administrative service organization (BH-ASO)" See WAC 182-538-050.

"Behavioral health agency" means an entity licensed by the department of health to provide behavioral health services, including services for mental health disorders and substance use disorders.

"Chemical dependency professional" or "CDP" means a person credentialed by the department of health as a chemical dependency professional (CDP) with primary responsibility for implementing an individualized service plan for substance use disorder services.

"Child" means a person under the age of eighteen. For the purposes of the medicaid program, people age eighteen through age twenty have the early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment (EPSDT) benefit described in chapter 182-534 WAC. In the medicaid program, EPSDT is available until a person reaches age twenty-one.

"Clinical record" means a paper or electronic file that is maintained by the provider and contains pertinent psychological, medical, and clinical information for each person served.

"Community support services" means services authorized, planned, and coordinated through resource management services including, at a minimum, assessment, diagnosis, emergency crisis intervention available twenty-four hours, seven days a week; prescreening determinations for people who are mentally ill being considered for placement in nursing homes as required by federal law; screening for patients being considered for admission to residential services; diagnosis and treatment for children who are mentally or severely emotionally disturbed discovered under screening through the federal Title XIX early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) program; investigation, legal, and other nonresidential services under chapter 71.05 RCW; case management services; psychiatric treatment including medication supervision; counseling; psychotherapy; assuring transfer of relevant patient information between service providers; recovery services; and other services determined by behavioral health administrative service organizations and managed care organizations.

"Complaint" See "grievance" in WAC 182-538-050.

"Consent" means agreement given by a person after the person is provided with a description of the nature, character, anticipated results of proposed treatments and the recognized serious possible risks, complications, and anticipated benefits, including alternatives and nontreatment. Informed consent must be provided in a terminology that the person can reasonably be expected to understand.

"Consultation" means the clinical review and development of recommendations regarding activities, or decisions of, clinical staff, contracted employees, volunteers, or students by people with appropriate knowledge and experience to make recommendations.

"Crisis" means an actual or perceived urgent or emergent situation that occurs when a person's stability or functioning is disrupted and there is an immediate need to resolve the situation to prevent a serious deterioration in the person's mental or physical health, or to prevent the need for referral to a significantly higher level of care.

"Cultural competence" or **"culturally competent"** means the ability to recognize and respond to health-related beliefs and cultural values, disease incidence and prevalence, and treatment efficacy. Examples of culturally competent care include striving to overcome cultural, language, and communications barriers, providing an environment in which people from diverse cultural backgrounds feel comfortable discussing their cultural health beliefs and practices in the context of negotiating treatment options, encouraging people to express their spiritual beliefs and cultural practices, and being familiar with and respectful of various traditional healing systems and beliefs and, where appropriate, integrating these approaches into treatment plans.

"Designated crisis responder (DCR)" means a mental health professional appointed by the county, or an entity appointed by the county, to perform the duties described in chapter 71.05 RCW.

"Disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of a person and the person:

- (a) Has a record of such an impairment; or
- (b) Is regarded as having such impairment.

"Ethnic minority" or **"racial/ethnic groups"** means, for the purposes of this chapter, any of the following general population groups:

- (a) African American;
- (b) An American Indian or Alaskan native, which includes:
 - (i) A person who is a member or considered to be a member in a federally recognized tribe;
 - (ii) A person determined eligible to be found Indian by the secretary of interior;
 - (iii) An Eskimo, Aleut, or other Alaskan native; and
 - (iv) An unenrolled Indian meaning a person considered Indian by a federally or nonfederally recognized Indian tribe or off-reservation Indian/Alaskan native community organization.
- (c) Asian/Pacific Islander; or
- (d) Hispanic.

"Housing services" means the active search and promotion of individual access to, and choice in, safe and affordable housing that is appropriate to the person's age, culture, and needs.

"Integrated managed care (IMC)" See WAC 182-538-050.

"Less restrictive alternative (LRA)" See WAC 182-538C-050.

"Mental health professional" means a person who meets the following:

- (a) A psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP), psychiatric nurse, or social worker as defined in chapters 71.05 and 71.34 RCW;
- (b) A person who is licensed by the department of health as a mental health counselor, mental health counselor associate, marriage and family therapist, or marriage and family therapist associate; or

(c) A person with a master's degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of the social sciences from an accredited college or university who has at least two years of experience in direct treatment of people with mental illness or emotional disturbance, experience that was gained under the supervision of a mental health professional recognized by the department of health or attested to by the licensed behavioral health agency.

"Mental health specialist" means:

(a) A **"child mental health specialist"** is defined as a mental health professional with the following education and experience:

(i) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of special training in child development and the treatment of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families; and

(ii) The equivalent of one year of full-time experience in the treatment of seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth and their families under the supervision of a child mental health specialist.

(b) A **"geriatric mental health specialist"** is defined as a mental health professional who has the following education and experience:

(i) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of specialized training devoted to the mental health problems and treatment of people age sixty and older; and

(ii) The equivalent of one year of full-time experience in the treatment of people age sixty and older, under the supervision of a geriatric mental health specialist.

(c) An **"ethnic minority mental health specialist"** is defined as a mental health professional who has demonstrated cultural competence attained through major commitment, ongoing training, experience and/or specialization in serving ethnic minorities, including evidence of one year of service specializing in serving the ethnic minority group under the supervision of an ethnic minority mental health specialist; and

(i) Evidence of support from the ethnic minority community attesting to the person's commitment to that community; or

(ii) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of specialized training devoted to ethnic minority issues and treatment of ethnic minorities.

(d) A **"disability mental health specialist"** is defined as a mental health professional with special expertise in working with an identified disability group. For purposes of this chapter only, "disabled" means a person with a disability other than a mental illness, including a developmental disability, serious physical handicap, or sensory impairment.

(i) If the consumer is deaf, the specialist must be a mental health professional with:

(A) Knowledge about the deaf culture and psychosocial problems faced by people who are deaf; and

(B) Ability to communicate fluently in the preferred language system of the consumer.

(ii) The specialist for people with developmental disabilities must be a mental health professional who:

(A) Has at least one year experience working with people with developmental disabilities; or

(B) Is a developmental disabilities professional as defined in RCW 71.05.020.

"Peer counselor" means a person recognized by medicaid agency as a person who:

(a) Is a self-identified consumer of behavioral health services who:

(i) Has applied for, is eligible for, or has received behavioral health services; or

(ii) Is the parent or legal guardian of a person who has applied for, is eligible for, or has received behavioral health services;

(b) Is a counselor credentialed under chapter 18.19 RCW;

(c) Has completed specialized training provided by or contracted through the medicaid agency. If the person was trained by trainers approved by the department of social and health services before October 1, 2004, and has met the requirements in (a), (b) and (d) of this subsection by January 31, 2005, the person is exempt from completing this specialized training;

(d) Has successfully passed an examination administered by the medicaid agency or an authorized contractor; and

(e) Has received a written notification letter from the medicaid agency stating that the medicaid agency recognizes the person as a "peer counselor."

"Quality plan" means an overarching system and/or process whereby quality assurance and quality improvement activities are incorporated and infused into all aspects of a behavioral health administrative service organization's (BH-ASO's) or managed care organization's (MCO's) operations.

"Residential services" means a complete range of residences and supports authorized by resource management services and which may involve a facility, a distinct part thereof, or services which support community living, for people who are acutely mentally ill, adults who are chronically mentally ill, children who are severely emotionally disturbed, or adults who are seriously disturbed and determined by the behavioral health organization to be at risk of becoming acutely or chronically mentally ill.

"Resource management services" means the planning, coordination, and authorization of residential services and community support services for people who are:

(a) Adults and children who are acutely mentally ill;

(b) Adults who are chronically mentally ill;

(c) Children who are severely emotionally disturbed; or

(d) Adults who are seriously disturbed and determined solely by a behavioral health organization to be at risk of becoming acutely or chronically mentally ill.

"Substance use disorder" means a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that a person continues using the substance despite significant substance-related problems. The diagnosis of a substance use disorder is based on a pathological pattern of behaviors related to the use of the substances.

"Supervision" means the regular monitoring of the administrative, clinical, or clerical work performance of a staff member, trainee, student, volunteer, or employee on contract by a person with the authority to give direction and require change.

"Youth" means a person who is age seventeen or younger.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2019 c 325, 2014 c 225, and 2018 c 201. WSR 19-24-063, § 182-538D-0200, filed 11/27/19, effective 1/1/20.]