

(Effective May 1, 2023)

WAC 246-341-0670 Crisis telephone support services—Service standards. Crisis telephone support services are services provided as a means of first contact for an individual in crisis or need of assistance. These services may include de-escalation and referral.

(1) A behavioral health agency providing crisis telephone support services must:

(a) Have services available 24 hours per day, seven days per week;

(b) Assure communication and coordination with the individual's mental health or substance use treatment provider, if indicated and appropriate;

(c) Remain on the phone with an individual in crisis in order to provide stabilization and support until the crisis is resolved or referral to another service is accomplished;

(d) As appropriate, refer individuals to voluntary or involuntary treatment facilities for admission on a seven day a week, 24 hour a day basis, including arrangements for contacting the designated crisis responder; and

(e) Develop and implement policies and procedures for training staff to identify and assist individuals in crisis before assigning the staff member to unsupervised duties.

(2) Documentation of a crisis telephone support service must include the following:

(a) A brief summary of each service encounter, including the date, time, and duration of the encounter;

(b) The names of the participants;

(c) A follow-up plan or disposition, including any referrals for services, including emergency medical services;

(d) Whether an individual has a crisis plan and any request to obtain the crisis plan; and

(e) The name and credential, if applicable, of the staff person providing the service.

(3) A behavioral health agency providing crisis telephone services for substance use disorder must ensure a professional appropriately credentialed to provide substance use disorder treatment is available or on staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 71.24.037, 71.05.560, 71.34.380, 18.205.160, 43.70.080(5), 41.05.750, 43.70.250, and 74.09.520 and chapters 71.05, 71.12, 71.24 and 71.34 RCW. WSR 22-24-091, § 246-341-0670, filed 12/6/22, effective 5/1/23.]