

# Pierce County Transition-Related Questions and Answers

## **1. What is changing in Pierce County on January 1, 2008?**

- Pierce County has chosen to no longer manage the mental health system. As a result the State Mental Health Division will be managing the mental health system.

## **2. How do I access Crisis Mental Health services in Pierce County beginning January 1, 2008?**

- If this is a life-threatening emergency please call 9-1-1 or go to your local emergency room.
- Crisis Mental Health Services can be reached by calling (24 hour)  
Voice: (253) 798-4333                      TDD: (253) 798-4349  
Toll-free 1-800-576-7764

## **3. How do I access Mental Health services in Pierce County beginning January 1, 2008?**

- If you are currently receiving mental health services you can continue to receive them through the same mental health agency.
- If you want to apply to receive mental health services you can call the mental health agencies in the provider network directory.

## **4. What impact will there be for Medicaid recipients and their families?**

- All of the same Mental Health providers are still available to provide services.
- Clubhouse services at Rose House will continue to be available.
- Respite and Supported Employment may be limited by the resources available at local mental health agencies.
- All other previously provided Medicaid services will remain available.
- Medicaid consumers will have the flexibility to go to any licensed and contracting CMHA for services.

## **5. What impact does this change have on my other Medicaid Benefits?**

- This does not make any changes to any other Medicaid program including Healthy Options.

**6. When is Pierce County no longer going to be an RSN?**

- Pierce County will no longer be an RSN on January 1, 2008.
- Pierce County will continue to provide the following:
  - i. 30-bed inpatient evaluation and treatment facility
  - ii. 18-bed crisis stabilization and triage
  - iii. 16-bed secure detox facility, funded by DASA
  - iv. Mobile Outreach Crisis Team, which includes the Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) for Pierce County
  - v. Ombuds Services and Care Managers
  - vi. Involuntary Commitment Services

**7. How will the Pierce County Mental Health System be administered in January 2008?**

- The Medicaid mental health system in Pierce County will convert from managed care to fee for service
- MHD will directly contract with local mental health agencies and the County to provide services
- MHD will assume oversight of local mental health agency contracts

**8. What impact does MHD expect on local mental health agencies?**

- The mental health agencies will see Medicaid payments changed from a monthly flat rate to reimbursement on a fee for service basis
- All of the current mental health agencies will be contracting with MHD to provide their current services. In the future there may be other agencies who qualify to contract to provide Medicaid services.
- Providers will no longer have a guaranteed Medicaid payment but will be paid based on services delivered.
- No significant change expected for non-Medicaid funding or contract requirements

**9. Who do I call if I have concerns about the services being provided?**

- Pierce County Mental Health Ombuds  
(253) 798-6123

**10. Who do I contact with other questions?**

<b>MHD/HRSA Pierce Transition Team</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Andy Toulon	(360) 902-0818
Melena Thompson	(360) 902-0840