SECTION XX – OUT-OF-COUNTY SERVICES

Out-of-county services are provided to a Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiary outside the geographic boundaries of Los Angeles County by a provider who is not contracted with the Local Mental Health Plan (LMHP).

It is the policy of the LMHP to ensure timely and effective clinical treatment regardless of a Medi-Cal beneficiary's county of residence. Only licensed specialty mental health providers who have met the requirements established by the LMHP will be reimbursed for specialty mental health services provided to Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiaries outside the geographical boundaries of Los Angeles County.

Emergency, crisis, and urgent care specialty mental health services may be provided to a Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiary outside the geographic boundaries of Los Angeles County by an out-of-county Medi-Cal provider without prior authorization from the LMHP.

AUTHORIZATION OF ROUTINE SERVICES

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AND NON- MINOR DEPENDENTS

Out-of-county providers contracted with the LMHP in the county in which the youth is placed that do not have a contract with LA County Department of Mental Health are able to provide routine specialty mental health services to Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 21 years of age, who are placed in kinship care or with an adoptive family. The out-of-county providers are required to submit a Service Authorization Request (SAR) through the *Senate Bill 785 (SB 785) process prior to delivering the service(s). The SAR can be submitted to the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Division, Interagency Case Management Unit (ICMU) via secure email at: outofcounty@dmh.lacounty.gov

Assembly Bill 1299 (AB 1299) establishes policy guidance of Presumptive Transfer, or Waiver of Presumptive Transfer, when a child in foster care is placed outside their county of original jurisdiction.

The Presumptive Transfer applies when the responsibility for the provision of, or arrangement and payment for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) transfers to the Mental Health Plan in the child's new county of residence. Presumptive Transfer allows for the timely service delivery of mental health services to meet each child's individual needs. The Presumptive Transfer process is initiated and carried out by one of the placing agencies, Child Welfare or Probation. The placing agency is required to notify the Mental Health Plan in the new county of residence via email when a child has been approved for Presumptive Transfer.

The Waiver of Presumptive Transfer, made in conjunction with the Child and Family Team, applies when the responsibility for the provision of, or arrangement and payment for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) remains with the original county of jurisdiction. The original county of jurisdiction must ensure that the child/youth receives the appropriate, medically necessary specialty mental health services. The Waiver of Presumptive Transfer is initiated and carried out by the placing agency. The placing agency is required to notify the Mental Health Plan in the new county of residence via email and the Mental Health Plan of the county of original jurisdiction when a child has been approved for the Waiver of Presumptive Transfer.

Assembly Bill 1051 (AB 1051) establishes policy guidance of Presumptive Transfer when a child or youth in foster care is placed out of the county of original jurisdiction in a Community Treatment Facility (CTF), Group Home (GH), or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), or is admitted to a Children's Crisis Residential Program (CCRP). The responsibility to provide or arrange and pay for SMHS remains with the MHP in the county of original jurisdiction unless an exception exists. The allowable exceptions include:

1. The child or youth's case plan specifies that the child or youth will transition to a less restrictive placement in the same county as the facility in which the child has been placed or admitted; or
2. The placing agency determines, as informed by the Child and Family Team (CFT), that the child or youth will be negatively impacted if responsibility for providing or arranging for SMHS is not transferred to the same county as the facility in which the child has been placed or admitted. The placing agency shall document the basis for making this determination in the case record.

If either circumstance described above exists at any time during a child or youth's placement in an out-of-county CTF, GH, STRTP or admission to a CCRP, the process for presumptive transfer set forth in W&I Code Section 14717.1 applies, and the responsibility to arrange and provide SMHS will transfer to the MHP in the county of residence.

For any other out-of-county services to children less than 18 years of age, contact the LMHP CCR Division, ICMU at (213) 739-2357.

ADULTS

Out-of-county routine services to Los Angeles County Medi-Cal beneficiaries, for adults 18 years of age and older, are subject to the authorization requirements of the LMHP Authorization is required **before** the service is delivered for a non-contracted provider to receive reimbursement. The non-contracted provider should reach out to the counties MHP, access line or business office.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO OUT OF COUNTY MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES WITHIN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

All Medi-Cal beneficiaries will receive emergency, crisis, and urgent specialty mental health services regardless of their county of residence. LMHP network providers are to contact the respective county of the Medi-Cal beneficiary to receive authorization for routine mental health services for children and adolescents who are not Los Angeles County beneficiaries. LMHP network providers are to contact the respective county of the Medi-Cal beneficiaries for authorization to provide routine mental health service to adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries.