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**Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)**  
**March 10, 2020**  
**SCDHHS, 1801 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29202**  
**11:00AM-12:00PM**

- I. Welcome by Director
- II. Advisement  
  
Pete Liggett, Ph.D, Program Manager, Center for Health Policy Innovation
  - Therapeutic Foster Care
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Closing Comments
- V. Adjournment



**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Medical Care Advisory Committee  
Item for Committee Advisement**

**PREPARED BY:** Pete Liggett, Ph.D., Deputy Chief of Staff, Center for Health Policy Innovation

**PRESENTED BY:** Pete Liggett

**DATE:** March 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Transition to the use of Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) for children and youth served by Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) providing behavioral health services to foster children in therapeutic foster care placements.

**OBJECTIVE:** Amend language in the SC State Plan to add reimbursement for TFC and the corresponding billing code – S5145 – for use by CPAs contracted with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS). TFC will be a daily, inclusive service that is reimbursed on a per diem basis and will take the place of providers billing for Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services (PRS) and Behavior Modification (BMod) in 15-minute billing increments. The per diem reimbursement rate will be developed and established by using 24 months of recent payments to existing Medicaid behavioral health service providers contracted with SCDSS as CPAs. Additionally, this transition will allow for a simplified administrative approach for CPAs and their network of TFC caregivers.

**BACKGROUND:**

- TFC is currently provided as a placement type for foster children and is not a Medicaid service or benefit. The term TFC is used by SCDSS to describe the placement of children with behavioral health issues with specially trained foster families. Medicaid reimbursement is sought by CPAs through their TFC families by billing for PRS and BMod in 15-minute units with service limits applying to a daily unit count.
- The therapeutic foster caregivers can receive Family Support (FS) from CPA staff to assist and coach caregivers in the provision of PRS and B-Mod.
- Children and youth in TFC placements are also eligible to receive behavioral health services from licensed clinicians who work for CPAs, or through non-affiliated outpatient behavioral health service providers (e.g., DMH Community Mental Health Centers or Licensed Independent Providers).

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** The addition of TFC to the behavioral health benefit is expected to be budget neutral as this inclusive, per diem reimbursement will replace the provision of PRS, BMod, and FS services provided to children and youth in TFC placements. State plan language and provider policy will outline same-day-of-service exclusions that will prevent duplicative service provision and billing.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** Revision of the SC State Plan in the Rehabilitative Services section will reflect current TFC practice on a national level regarding the use of a per diem and inclusive service currently not included in state plan language. Transition to a per diem reimbursement structure is expected to lessen the administrative load on CPAs and their TFC providers.

**EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED:** This amendment will apply to RBHS providers contracted with SCDSS as CPAs who provide placement for children with a need for behavioral health services in TFC settings.

**RECOMMENDATION:** 1) Submit a state plan amendment to add TFC as a covered benefit within the Rehabilitative Services section; and, 2) submit a state plan amendment to revise reimbursement language to reflect the implementation of a per diem rate structure.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** On or after July 1, 2020