



Department of Health and Human  
Services  
Adult Mental Health Services  
32 Blossom Lane  
# 11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel: (207) 287-4243; Fax: (207) 287-1022  
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

To: Providers of Mental Health Crisis Services and Hospitals  
From: Crisis Work Group  
Subject: Crisis System & MOU Requirements and Timetable  
Date: September 26, 2008

As you are aware, the most recent legislative session directed DHHS to consolidate adult and child crisis programs and develop integrated services in each of the eight (8) DHHS districts. To quote in part from the legislation "... reductions in funding by consolidating mental health crisis services must be accomplished through a memorandum of understanding subject to this section. The Department of Health and Human Services shall design standards for and negotiate the implementation of a memorandum of understanding among providers of mental health services in each community service network that will achieve savings through the consolidation of crisis services for children and adults. The department shall establish criteria for crisis services, including, but not limited to: access to telephone crisis services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; mobile outreach for face to face assessments; crisis stabilization and follow-up; availability of fixed sites; access to psychiatric consultation; agreements with local hospitals; alternative to inpatient hospital services through residential beds; compliance with the adult consent decree and reduction of utilization of hospital emergency rooms. ...." Elsewhere in the legislation community service networks became DHHS districts.

A Crisis Work Group was established to set the minimum Crisis Service System and Memorandum of Understanding requirements amongst the existing crisis providers and hospitals within each of the districts.

The Crisis Work Group developed and distributed a provider survey, consumer survey, and family survey to achieve diverse input. We received many responses which we have taken into consideration as we have proceeded to develop the minimum Crisis Service System and MOU requirements.

Attached to this memorandum are the following:

- Minimum Crisis System and MOU requirements
- Copy of the Crisis Standards
- List of Providers of Crisis Services and Hospitals by District

In a subsequent mailing we will provide:

- General Fund dollars for each district for the final quarter (four months) of FY 2009 (The initial FY 2009 contracts with crisis providers were for eight (8) months.)
- Proposed allocation of General Fund dollars for FY 2010

Timelines:

- Friday, November 14, 2008- Each District or combination must provide a progress report to the Department.
- Friday January 9, 2009- Each District or combination provides the final product outlined in the previous correspondence.

In the event that the Providers of Crisis Services and the Hospitals within a district are not able to organize or create a local system, please contact the Department to discuss the situation.

We would encourage you to begin to discuss and review the information provided. We hope to provide the general fund dollars available per district shortly.

Thank you.

Crisis Work Group Members

Donald Chamberlain

Joan Smyrski

Sharon Arsenault

Lydia Richard

Tammy Swasey-Ballou

Michelle Descoteaux