



MassHealth Fact Sheet – FY2011 H.2 Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI)



CBHI supports certain child-centered family-focused case management and behavioral health services for eligible MassHealth-enrolled youth under 21, which are tailored to the strengths and needs of the individual youth and family. The initiative focuses on early identification and intervention by requiring primary care providers to offer children a behavioral health screening using a standardized tool. It encourages more effective and efficient delivery of behavioral health services by requiring behavioral health specialists to use a standardized tool to provide behavioral health diagnosis and needs assessment before beginning treatment services. CBHI engages culturally competent community resources to deliver effective treatment and to support community living and normal social development to the greatest extent possible. Through case management activities, CBHI pays for intensive care coordination (case management) for youth with demonstrated need for assistance accessing and coordinating public and private services.

In order to implement the judgment in *Rosie D. v. Patrick*, during FY2010, MassHealth requested authorization from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to claim federal financial participation (FFP) for seven home- and community- based behavioral health services for eligible youth under 21. CMS approved six of the seven services: Intensive Care Coordination, Family Support and Training, In Home Behavioral Therapist, Therapeutic Mentors, In Home Therapy, Mobil Crisis, Behavioral Health Screenings and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). In accordance with the judgment, the six services approved are now covered MassHealth services.

During FY2010, MassHealth also continued to work with its health plans and other contractors to support ongoing implementation of the provisions of the judgment related to the use of a standardized behavioral health screening tool in primary care and a standardized behavioral health clinical assessment tool for use by specialists. All major provisions of the judgment have been implemented in compliance with the schedule established by the Court. MassHealth’s ongoing work to support implementation of the judgment by its health plans and other contractors is overseen by the Court’s Monitor for the “Rosie D” case.

FY2011 Initiatives

107M Investment for Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative

These funds are necessary to pay for the delivery of the following court-ordered improvements to MassHealth’s behavioral health services for children and youth under 21: standardized behavioral health screening in primary care; standardized clinical assessments in all behavioral health services; six new home- and community-based behavioral health services; and collection of service and outcome data.

There has been a strong response by children and youth who demonstrate medical need for these new services. From initial indications, the demand for these services is meeting or exceeding current capacity.

Implementation of the provisions of the judgment furthers the mission of the Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative, which is to strengthen, expand, and integrate Massachusetts state services into a comprehensive, community-based system of care and to ensure that families and their children with significant emotional and behavioral health needs obtain the services they need for success in home, school, and community.

