

Behavioral Health Community Partners in Nursing Facilities

What is the BH CP in NFs Program?

Behavioral Health Community Partners (BH CPs) are community-based organizations contracted by MassHealth to provide enhanced care coordination to members with complex needs. BH CPs provide supports to members who are in nursing facilities (NFs) and have significant behavioral health needs, including serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorder. The BH CP in NFs program launched on July 3, 2023, and aims to ensure behavioral health care in NFs is coordinated the same way it would be in the community.

Who is eligible?

To meet the rules for the BH CP in NFs program, members have to be determined to have Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) SMI and also be determined appropriate for NF care for up to 12 months through a PASRR Level II evaluation.

How are members selected for the program?

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) PASRR Office identifies members who are eligible. DMH assigns eligible members to an NF location based on where they currently live.

How are eligible members notified of their enrollment?

DMH will notify BH CPs of eligible members. BH CPs will then reach out to the eligible members to explain the program and answer any questions. Members have the option to accept or decline services.

Is participation required?

Individuals may decline to participate in the BH CP in NFs program at any time. Their decision will not impact any other benefits they may have, such as MassHealth benefits. Those who are eligible can also request a different BH CP in their area.

For more information about the BH CP in NFs Program, please contact CPInfo@mass.gov.

ABBREVIATIONS

BH CP
Behavioral Health
Community Partners

DMH
Department of Mental
Health

NF
Nursing Facility

SMI
Serious Mental Illness

PASRR
Preadmission
Screening and
Resident Review

FACT SHEET

ABBREVIATIONS

BH CP

Behavioral Health
Community Partners

DMH

Department of Mental
Health

HST

Human Service
Transportation

ID/DD

Intellectual Disability/
Developmental
Disability

NF

Nursing Facility

SMI

Serious Mental Illness

PASRR

Preadmission
Screening and
Resident Review

What is PASRR?

Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) is a set of federal requirements for all Medicaid-certified nursing facilities. PASRR requires that all individuals applying for admission to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities, regardless of payer source, meet the following criteria.

1. Applicants must be screened for suspected Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and/or Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disability (ID/DD).
2. If suspected of having SMI and/or ID/DD, applicants must also be evaluated to
 - a. confirm presence of SMI and/or ID/DD;
 - b. determine the most appropriate, least restrictive setting for their needs to receive care (i.e., nursing facility, community, other setting); and
 - c. if the NF is the most appropriate and least restrictive setting, determine which specialized and/or behavioral health services they need.

For additional information about PASRR, go to mass.gov/preadmission-screening-and-resident-review-pasrr.

What is the role of the BH CPs?

BH CPs perform comprehensive care coordination and care management, including

- outreach and engagement;
- comprehensive assessment, HRSN screening, and ongoing care planning;
- care coordination and care management across services, including medical, behavioral health, long-term services and supports, and other state agency services;
- support for transitions of care; medication review; health and wellness coaching;
- connection to social services and community resources;
- access for DMH Clubhouse services; and
- connections to Options Counseling.

What are examples of the type of assistance the BH CPs assigned to my facility can provide?

- Working with an NF Client to coordinate Clubhouse and Human Service Transportation (HST) services
- Advocating with NF staff to connect the NF Client to recommended/required services outlined in the Level II PASRR Evaluation
- Coordinating behavioral health services (including, but not limited to, psychopharmacology, individual therapy, and neuropsych testing)
- Conducting a medication review to document current medication/regimen