

HIV Health Services Planning Council Sacramento TGA

Policy and Procedure Manual

Subject: Complementary/Alternative Therapies
Service Standards

No.: SSC 13

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As directed by the HIV health Services Planning Council priorities, when funded, the following service standards will apply to Ryan White contracted service providers.

1. Ryan White funding is to be used for HIV/AIDS medical services and for psycho-social and support services which significantly improve access and adherence to such medical services. As such, any Alternate Therapies services which are provided with Ryan White funding ("RW Agencies") will be fully integrated with each client's medical care. For purposes of this Standard, the term Alternate Therapies shall include only services which are funded at any given time by the Sacramento TGA HIV Health Services Planning Council ("HIV Planning Council") and are considered eligible services by the Health Resources Services Administration. As of the date of writing this Standard, the funded services included Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Therapeutic Massage.

2. Ryan White funding is to be expended in a cost effective, equitable manner which is based upon verified client need and encourages self-empowerment of clients. Alternate Therapies services which are paid for with Ryan White funds shall be administered or referred through Medical Case Management services which are provided in accordance with the allocation priorities and directives which are adopted by the HIV Planning Council: Ryan White funds shall not be expended or set-aside on a prospective basis for services not yet actually provided.

3. In accordance with the above:

A. Alternate Therapies services must be prescribed by a qualified Medical Provider as part of an integrated HIV/AIDS Plan of Care. Each prescription for Alternate Therapies shall be recognized for a period not to exceed three months. Limitations on the quantity or frequency of services may be established from time to time by the Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") or the HIV Planning Council. In the event that a prescription calls for quantities or frequencies of service which exceed such limitations, the limitations shall govern.

B. It is anticipated that providers of Alternate Therapies and Medical Providers will proactively and regularly communicate and make available to each other relevant information pertaining to common clients.

- C. Providers of Alternate Therapies services shall be licensed or certified as follows: Chiropractic, Doctor of Chiropractic; Acupuncture, Licensed Acupuncturist; Therapeutic Massage, Certified Massage Therapist.
- D. Providers of Alternate Therapies services shall not use their professional status as a means of promoting products in which they may have a financial interest to either clients or Medical Providers.

4. If available funding levels are anticipated to be less than the total need for Alternate Therapies, agencies shall ensure that funds are distributed among the maximum possible number of clients who are most at risk for health problems related to the need for Alternate Therapies. In the event that two or more clients with similar healthcare needs have presented valid prescriptions for services and funding is not sufficient to serve all of those clients, the rule of first-come/first-served shall prevail. Agencies shall assure that no client receives any RW Funded services unless such client is found to be eligible for services under such Eligibility Standards as may be adopted by the Planning Council.

5. Medical Case Managers at RW Agencies may at any time submit to the RW Fiscal Agent requests for interpretation of these or any other Services Standards adopted by the HIV Health Services Planning Council, based on the unique healthcare needs of a client or on unique barriers to accessing healthcare services which may be experienced by a client.

6. RW Agencies shall provide a means by which Medical Case Managers can obtain in-servicing and on-call advice related to client medical and other healthcare needs.

7. Clients shall have the right to request a review of any service denials under this or any other Services Standard adopted by the HIV Health Services Planning Council. The most recent review / grievance policies and procedures for the RW Agency shall be made available to each client upon intake. Such policies and procedures shall include an explanation of the criteria and process for accessing any available advocacy or ombudsman services.

Adopted: *Kane R. Ortega*
Kane Ortega, Chair

Date: 4/27/11