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Nevada Psychological Association Responds to Nevada Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Changes and Recoupment Efforts

LAS VEGAS, NV – Nevada Psychological Association has issued a public statement regarding Nevada Medicaid reimbursement rate changes and recent efforts by Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to recoup previously paid funds for psychological services during the 2017 calendar year. NPA President, Dr. Adrianna Wechsler Zimring, stated:

“On December 20th, 2017, the Nevada Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy posted Announcement 1484 which served as the official notification of reimbursement rate changes for several provider types, including psychologists in independent practice. Most notably, among other changes in reimbursement rates, reimbursement for mental and behavioral health evaluations by psychologists in independent practice decreased by 18%. Although these rate changes were originally proposed in 2016, DHCFP and NV Medicaid failed to notify providers that these rate changes had been fully approved and were to be implemented until Announcement 1484 was posted on December 20th, 2017.

These changes are retroactive to January 1st, 2017, and previously paid claims will be reprocessed and adjusted. It appears many psychologists who focus primarily on mental and behavioral health evaluations, diagnosis, and treatment ‘owe’ significant amounts of money to Medicaid.

On behalf of NPA, I have formally requested in writing that DHCFP and NV Medicaid end recoupment efforts against NV Medicaid Provider Type 26 (psychologists in independent practice). I have requested that NV Medicaid demonstrate leniency and absorb the financial costs of the error made in 2017 by DHCFP and NV Medicaid when NV Medicaid failed to promptly notify providers of the reimbursement rate changes.

The changes outlined in Announcement 1484 are triggering a series of events that is taking Nevada backwards in our effort to expand available mental and behavioral healthcare options in our state, currently ranked #51 by Mental Health America.

These garnishments and reimbursement reductions threaten the ability of Nevada’s psychologists to keep their doors open and continue providing services to Nevada’s highest-need and highest-risk community members, including the victims of the tragic Las Vegas shooting on October 1st.”

About Nevada Psychological Association - The mission of the Nevada Psychological Association is to advance and represent psychology as a science and a profession, as well as to serve the professional needs of its membership and the community.

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