

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update on Medicaid PAR Status and Today's CHCFP Public Workshop**

Hi all,

The outcome of today's DHCFP Public Workshop represents a significant "win" for behavioral health in Nevada. Essentially, the division has reversed it's previous decision to significantly limit the number of therapy sessions allowed without a prior authorization.

As a reminder, in June the division announced that all psychotherapy and neurotherapy services for NV Medicaid patients would require prior authorization as of July. Following significant push back from providers, recipients, and the community at large, the division backed down and said they would allow 3 sessions before requiring a prior authorization. Shortly after that, the division backed down again to allowing 5 sessions, with the change scheduled to go into effect on October 1st. As of the last Public Workshop on August 14th, the division decided to assemble a focus group to discuss the issue and gather feedback from stakeholders.

This morning during the Public Workshop, the division announced that they have reversed their previous decision to decrease the number of sessions allowed without a prior authorization. NV Medicaid recipients are able to receive the same number of therapy sessions as they always have been prior to needing a prior auth (26 for children; 18 for adults).

Unfortunately, the division was not able to stop the originally scheduled change to the 5 session limit, which will still go into effect on October 1st. However, the change will be reversed before the end of October. The division believes that because the change will be reversed by the end of October, there will not be any actual impact to recipients or providers (of course, providers are somewhat less believing of this). If providers or recipients are impacted by the change during October, they are encouraged to reach out to their NV Medicaid contact or to the division.

I am also pleased to report that the division is carefully considering the feedback provided over the past couple of months by providers, recipients, the community, and the focus group. Attached please find the documents from today's Workshop.

Thank you all for speaking up and speaking out about this important issue! You made a significant and meaningful difference in the lives of so many!

-Adrianna

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