

HEALTHCHOICES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTRACT

CHANGE RE: CHILDREN IN SUBSTITUTE CARE

PLACED OUT OF ZONE

Question

A youth is ordered by the court to a drug and alcohol non-hospital residential rehabilitation program. However, once placed at the facility a drug and alcohol assessment is completed and the medical necessity determination (using the ASAM Criteria for Adolescents) does not support the need for non-hospital residential treatment. If the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization (BH-MCO) denies payment based on medical necessity, can the Juvenile Probation Department authorize payment for services using Act 148 funds?

Answer

A drug and alcohol assessment and level of care determination should be completed prior to the judge issuing an order, so that all involved parties know the results prior to placement. A youth should not be placed in a drug and alcohol treatment bed if the placement cannot be supported as medically necessary; the youth can be placed in a non-treatment bed funded by Juvenile Probation and receive drug and alcohol outpatient treatment (if medically necessary) that is funded by the BH-MCO.

If a youth is placed in a treatment bed that is not supported by medical necessity criteria the placement is not eligible for Act 148 funding and would need to be supported by 100% County funding.