



EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT (S. 264) FACT SHEET

The Excellence in Mental Health Act would amend the Public Health Service Act to create criteria for federally qualified community behavioral centers.

NEW CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS

- Employ a core clinical staff that is multidisciplinary and culturally and linguistically competent.
- Provide services to all individuals regardless of the ability to pay.
- Provide each of the following services:
 - Screening, assessment, and diagnosis, including risk assessment.
 - Outpatient mental health and substance use services.
 - Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk.
 - Crisis mental health services, including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention services, and crisis stabilization.
 - Targeted case management.
 - Psychiatric rehabilitation services.
 - Peer support and counselor services and family supporters.
- Maintain linkages and, where possible, enter into formal contracts with other community or regional support services, including juvenile and criminal justice agencies and facilities.
- Where feasible, provide outreach and engagement to encourage individuals who could benefit from mental health care to freely participate in receiving services.
- Centers must recertify every five years.

CHANGES IN MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Amends the Social Security Act to provide for Medicaid payments to certified community health centers and to include 'community behavioral health center services' in the term 'medical assistance'.

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services may award grants to eligible entities to expend funds for the construction or modernization of facilities used to provide mental health and substance abuse services to individuals.