



Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting

July 25, 2024

**Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
Kendra Snuffer, Chief of Staff**



General Updates

- **Behavioral Health Council Update**
- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Update**
 - June 2024 in-state answer rate of 89%; 10,433 routed calls
 - 27% increase in the number of calls routed to PA compared to January 2024
- **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Update**
 - Federal H.R. 7808 – Early Action and Responsiveness Lifts Youth Minds Act
 - Would allow CMHSBG funds to be used on prevention activities



Children's System Updates

- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Regulations**

- PRTF Regulations are in the last stages of review. The public comment timeframe is late August/early September.
- OMHSAS is holding a symposium in fall on the Best Practices to Serve Children in the Crisis System
- OMHSAS Children's Bureau has scheduled two PRTF Stakeholder webinars to review significant sections of the proposed regulations:
 - July 23, 2024, at 9:30am: For BH-MCOs, Primary Contractors, and counties
 - July 25, 2024, at 1:00pm: For all other stakeholders
 - Email Don Hindmarsh with questions/comments at dhindmarsh@pa.gov
 - Click on this link to join: [Join the meeting now](#)

- **Children's Symposium**

- OMHSAS is holding a symposium in the fall on Best Practices to Serve Children in the Crisis System
- More information will be sent out in August via the OMHSAS listserv

Four Walls Rule Updates

- **CMS Federal Proposed Rule**

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have issued a proposed rule, or Notice of Public Rulemaking, that could create exceptions to the existing four walls requirement for IHS/Tribal clinics, behavioral health clinics, and clinics located in rural areas.
- The official language posted to the federal register can be found on page 15 of [2024-15087.pdf \(federalregister.gov\)](#)
- Interested parties should provide public comment on this proposed rule to the addresses listed in the federal register by September 9, 2024.



Four Walls Rule Updates

- **State Level Movement**

- OMHSAS remains focused on a shorter-term solution for mental health and substance use disorder *managed care* providers
- The goal is to have a mental health solution effective January 2025 and an SUD solution effective March 2025
- We will hold webinars in the fall with the next steps. There is nothing providers need to do now to prepare.
- In the meantime, OMHSAS and DHS are drafting language, updating HealthChoices agreements, and consulting with CMS