

PROVIDER ALERT

New Crisis Intervention Program Initiative

May 18, 2023

Target Audience: Crisis Intervention Providers and Prospective Providers

The Behavioral Health Administration is in the process of Crisis Systems Transformation in Maryland, incorporating the 988 Crisis Hotline, Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT), and Crisis Stabilization Centers (CSC). The 988 Crisis Hotline is operational, and the next steps include full implementation of accreditation-based licensing for both MCT and for CSCs.

Licensing and Medicaid regulations have been published for public comment and are now being revised based on stakeholder feedback. However, providers should not wait for final publication of the regulations before proceeding with arranging for accreditation surveys.

Providers interested in providing either MCT or CSC should contact their accreditation organization **immediately** to determine appropriate steps to obtain accreditation for the services they plan to offer. A provider scheduling a survey today will likely be surveyed sometime in August or September, and will then have to wait for a report before obtaining a license and enrolling in Medicaid.

CARF International (CARF) and the Joint Commission (TJC) have both been approved to offer accreditation for crisis intervention services.

The Joint Commission accredits all of the services of an organization as a whole, and will adjust its surveys to accommodate the various service elements offered, including crisis.

CARF has revamped its crisis standards. The “Crisis Stabilization” standard that applies to Residential Crisis also covers Crisis Stabilization Centers. The “Crisis Intervention” standards will be applied to Mobile Crisis Teams. The particular field accredited will be “Integrated SUD/MH”.

Providers contacting their accreditation organizations may find that they already possess at least an element of the required accreditation, while others may need to begin an accreditation process from scratch, obtain a supplemental survey, or add the services to their accreditation renewal.

Further information on licensing for crisis services will be provided through Provider Alerts, BHA Licensing and Accreditation webpage, and through emails to existing or prospective crisis providers. Interested providers who are not yet involved in BHA's crisis stakeholders group should contact Lucy.Billmoore1@maryland.gov to sign up.