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From: Gynger Steele, Administrator, Division of Care and Treatment Services
Otis L Woods, Administrator, Division of Quality Assurance

Residential Crisis Stabilization Facilities Licensure/Certification

Summary

This memo explains facility types and certification requirements for crisis stabilization facilities that provide emergency mental health services for youth or adults in residential settings under Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34.

Background

[Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34](#) describes emergency mental health services programs, also known as crisis intervention services. All counties are required by state law to provide crisis intervention services. Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 34.22(4) allows programs to provide optional stabilization services to an individual for a temporary transition period, which aims to reduce or eliminate an individual's symptoms such that inpatient hospitalization can be diverted. Stabilization services are intended to assist in the transition to a less restrictive placement when the person is no longer in crisis. All crisis stabilization services must be voluntary and should not be confused with involuntary emergency detentions or voluntary or court-ordered out-of-home care placement for children and youth.

References

For the purposes of this memo, all services referred to in this memo are considered residential crisis stabilization. Locations for crisis stabilization services include a variety of community-based settings that are required to be licensed or certified by DHS.

[Wis. Stat. § 50.01\(1g\)](#) defines a community-based residential facility as a place where 5 or more adults who are not related to the operator or administrator and who do not require care above intermediate level nursing care reside and receive care, treatment or services that are above the level of room and board but that include no more than 3 hours of nursing care per week per resident.

[Wisconsin Medicaid Standards for Certified 1-2 Bed Adult Family Homes](#) provides standards for certified adult family homes under the authority of the approved home and community-based services waivers programs operated by DHS. The authority for promulgating these standards for use by the funding sources (other than the Medicaid home and community-based services waivers) is pursuant to [Wis. Stat. § 46.036](#).

[Wis. Stat. § 50.01\(1\)\(b\)](#) defines an adult family home as a place where 3 or 4 adults who are not related to the operator reside and receive care, treatment or services that are above the level of room and board and that may include up to 7 hours per week of nursing care per resident.

[Wis. Stat. § 51.042\(1\)\(b\)](#) defines a youth crisis stabilization facility as a treatment facility with a maximum of 8 beds that admits a minor to prevent or de-escalate the minor's mental health crisis and avoid admission of the minor to a more restrictive setting.

[Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.56\(1\)](#) defines adult residential integrated behavioral health stabilization services as a residential behavioral health treatment service, delivered under the oversight of a medical director, that provides withdrawal management and intoxication monitoring, as well as integrated behavioral health stabilization services, and includes nursing care on-site for medical monitoring available on a 24-hour basis.

Licensure/certification

Each residential crisis stabilization facility must obtain licensure or certification under one of the following options. Residential crisis stabilization may not be provided outside of a licensed or certified facility.

- [Community-based residential facility licensure](#) under the Division of Quality Assurance
- [Adult family home certification](#) under the Division of Medicaid Services
- [Adult family home licensure](#) under the Division of Quality Assurance
- [Youth crisis stabilization facility certification](#) under the Division of Quality Assurance
- [DHS 75.56 certification](#) under the Division of Quality Assurance

Community-based residential facilities are intended to provide longer term placements. In accordance with the process detailed in [Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 83.03](#), a waiver or variance may be granted by the DHS for short-term crisis stabilization. This process is explained in [DQA Memo 21-003](#).

Per [Wis. Stat. § 51.042\(2\)\(a\)](#), DHS may limit the number of facilities allowed to operate a youth crisis stabilization facility.

If you have a question or concern about this memo, email the [Division of Care and Treatment Services](#) (technical assistance) or the [Division of Quality Assurance](#) (licensure and certification).