
Provider Technical Assistance Meeting Summary - HCA Presentation on CCBHC Certification Process

Monday, August 11, 2025

Key Points

1. Purpose of the Meeting

HCA convened behavioral health providers and partners to provide a clear overview of Washington State's CCBHC Certification process, timeline, and expectations. The meeting was designed to ensure transparency, clarify requirements, and solicit meaningful partner feedback during the Planning Grant period.

2. Planning Grant Overview

Washington is currently in the SAMHSA CCBHC Planning Grant phase, which supports preparation for participation in the Section 223 Demonstration. Planning Grant activities include developing certification criteria, establishing the payment methodology, and ensuring alignment with SAMHSA's CCBHC standards. Emphasis was placed on building infrastructure for quality measurement, care coordination, and sustainable operations.

3. Scope of Services and Activities (SOSA)

HCA reviewed the draft SOSA, detailing the complete array of CCBHC-required services. Discussion covered the integration of behavioral health, substance use disorder services, and primary care screening/monitoring. Clarifications were provided on service delivery expectations, allowable care coordination approaches, and documentation requirements under SAMHSA standards.

4. Triggering vs. Non-Triggering CCBHC Payments

HCA outlined the difference between triggering events (which initiate a Prospective Payment System [PPS] encounter rate) and non-triggering activities (which are essential but not separately reimbursed under PPS). Examples of triggering events discussed: initial and ongoing assessment visits, treatment services delivered face-to-face or via telehealth to eligible clients, and certain crisis interventions meeting CCBHC criteria. Examples of non-triggering activities discussed: outreach and engagement without direct service delivery, care coordination activities not tied to a billable encounter, and administrative, supervision, and training functions. Attendees were asked to provide feedback on the proposed lists to ensure operational feasibility while maintaining compliance with SAMHSA's criteria.

5. Feedback Solicitation

HCA emphasized the importance of partner input, particularly on: service scenarios that may not be clearly classified as triggering or non-triggering, potential operational challenges in documentation and encounter capture, and alignment with existing EHR and billing workflows.

Question & Answer

Q: How will HCA finalize the list of triggering and non-triggering services?

A: Feedback from providers will be reviewed alongside SAMHSA and CMS guidance, then incorporated into the final SOSA and payment policy documents before certification launch.

Q: Will the PPS rate cover all CCBHC-required services, including non-triggering activities?

A: Yes. The PPS encounter rate is intended to cover the full cost of the CCBHC scope of services, including non-triggering activities, even though only triggering events initiate payment.

Q: How will care coordination be valued under PPS if it does not trigger payment?

A: Care coordination is considered an included cost in the PPS rate, but its delivery must still be documented for compliance and quality reporting.

Follow-Up Items

1. Feedback Submission: All participants to submit written feedback on the triggering and non-triggering list by the stated deadline.
2. SOSA Finalization: HCA to incorporate partner feedback and publish the final SOSA for certification preparation.
3. Technical Assistance: Schedule follow-up webinars to address documentation and billing workflow alignment for triggering events.
4. PPS Policy Confirmation: HCA to confirm PPS-1 operational guidance in consultation with actuarial and policy teams.

Attendance

Advocates Recovery Services

Esther Riley
CHAS Health, Spokane
Don Miller

Carelon Behavioral Health (Pierce Region)

Ahney King

Cascade Community Healthcare

Leann Reed

Mary Smith
Sierra Pecson

Catholic Community Services (CCS)
Steve Ver Valin

Catholic Community Services W WA VP
Mary Stone-Smith
Clarvida
Mark McEnderfer

Columbia River Mental Health Services
Jessica Walter
Lisa Aarseth
Yvonne Fitterer
Compass Health
Becky Olson-Hernandez
Charissa Westergard
Janet Carbary
Stacey Alles
Shirley Maike

Comprehensive Healthcare
Jodi Daly
Kamran Khatri
Mark Kettner
Taylor Stormo

Comprehensive Life Resources
Aaron Forster

Coordinated Care
Mark Varela

DESC
Rachel Marhill

Discovery Behavioral Healthcare
Dan Taylor

Excelsior Wellness, Spokane WA
Drew Comito

Frontier Behavioral Health
Karen Thomason

King County DCHS/BHRD
Rasheena Hibbler

Kitsap Mental Health Services
Andrew Kelly

National Council
Brett Beckerson

Palouse River Counseling
Mike Berney

Passages Family Support
Davina Akiu
Sarah Maike
Tammy Crider

Peninsula Behavioral Health
Dawn Brown
Kathy Stevens
Sydney Soelter
Tracy Sheldon
Wendy Sisk
Renew
Sue Sherwood

Volunteers of America of Eastern WA and Northern ID
Harlee Harsh
Kirsten De Simone
Nina Bliss

WA Council for Behavioral Health
Joan Miller
Julia O'Connor
Olivia Shangrow

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
Gloria Rodriguez

Contact Information

For questions or additional information about the Washington State CCBHC Certification process, please contact HCA's CCBHC team at: HCACCBHC@hca.wa.gov