

NOTICE OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

Department of Social Services

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 24-J: CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH URGENT CRISIS CENTERS

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Public comment information is at the bottom of this document.

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after April 1, 2024, SPA 24-J will amend Attachments 3.1-A, 3.1-B and 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan to make updates to the coverage language and payment methodologies described below:

SPA 24-J will make the following changes to children's clinics licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Behavioral Health by establishing coverage to DCF certified Children's Mental Health Urgent Crisis Centers that provide services to children ages 18 years old and under.

This SPA will implement coverage and payment for urgent crisis services provided by Behavioral Health Childrens Clinics licensed by DCF as child guidance clinics and are also certified by DCF as Children's Mental Health Urgent Crisis Centers. This coverage is being added to the Medicaid State Plan within the federal rehabilitation services benefit category described in 42 C.F.R. § 440.130(d) as a new subcategory of mental health services provided by clinics.

The purpose of this SPA is to enable coverage and payment of these services and thereby improve access and outcomes for behavioral health services. Specifically, these centers will function as walk-in clinics, providing youths and their families with immediate access to resources while they are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, such as thoughts of suicide or self-injury, feelings of depression or anxiety, out-of-control behaviors, and substance misuse. The centers are aimed at diverting youths and their families from prolonged or delayed services while seeking treatment at a hospital emergency room. The goal will be to provide services to children experiencing mental health crisis and in need of urgent care.

Fiscal Impact

DSS estimates that this SPA will increase annual aggregate expenditures by approximately \$469,700 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 and \$4,342,344 in SFY 2025.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

This SPA is posted on the DSS web site at this link:<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-State-Plan-Amendments>. The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office or the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Medical Policy Unit,

Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. Please reference “SPA 24-J: Children’s Mental Health Urgent Crisis Centers.”.

Anyone may send DSS written comments about the SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than **April 3, 2024**.
