

- MEMORANDUM -

DATE: April 13, 2020
TO: Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Providers
FROM: Kimberly Coady, LCSW, Interim Quality Assurance Administrator
SUBJECT: **Medi-Cal Site Certifications During COVID-19 Emergency**

The ACBH Quality Assurance (QA) Office would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our ACBH Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) providers who are able to maintain provision of essential SMHS to our safety net consumers during the COVID-19 emergency.

We are pleased to inform you that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has issued guidance to temporarily waive the onsite review for all Medi-Cal certifications and re-certification of SMHS programs in an effort to ensure continuity of services to our safety net consumers.

DHCS confirmed that, effective March 1, 2020, onsite review and fire clearance requirements shall be temporarily waived, for a 60-day emergency period, for all SHMS programs. The 60-day emergency waiver may be extended in 60-day increments, as necessary and approved by DHCS. Should the waiver be extended, no further action will be required by the approved providers. Upon conclusion of the emergency waiver period, affected SMHS providers will be required to meet full Medi-Cal site certification requirements, including the requirement for onsite review and fire clearance. Upon the lifting of COVID-19 public health emergency, ACBH will resume and expedite onsite reviews and collect any outstanding documents, including valid and current fire clearance certificates from affected SMHS providers, which will be required for submission to DHCS no later than by 90 days from the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency waiver.

Please be advised that ACBH QA staff will continue processing Medi-Cal certifications and re-certifications using the streamlined procedures, without requiring onsite reviews and fire clearances.

ACBH QA would like to kindly request our SMHS providers, who are awaiting their initial Medi-Cal site Certification(s) or whose certifications are set to expire at this time, to proactively follow the steps below in order to successfully expedite the newly-approved COVID-19 emergency streamlined Medi-Cal Site Certification process:

- If required, make updates to the National Provider Identifier (NPI).
- Review the Medi-Cal Site Certification protocol to ensure a successful certification:
http://www.acbhcs.org/providers/network/docs/2013/Completing_the_Protocol.pdf
- Email copies of your agency's Policies and Procedures (P's & P's referenced in pages 7 to 10 of the Medi-Cal Site Certification protocol linked above) to SiteCertification@acgov.org
- To avoid any delays upon lifting of the emergency waiver, ACBH recommends following up with your local fire jurisdiction to inquire about the status of Fire Safety Inspections.

We appreciate the efforts of our providers in responding to the needs of our consumers and the health care community.

