

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
MENTAL ILLNESS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 580-2-9
PROGRAM OPERATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

~~580-2-9-.21 Assertive Community Treatment.~~

~~(1) The program description is approved by the board as specified in 580-2-9-.08(10)(b) and is consistent with the provisions of this section. The program description must include all of the following components:~~

~~(a) A description of the nature and scope of the program that includes at a minimum the provision of services as specified in this section and as indicated by individual consumer need.~~

~~(b) Discharge/transfer criteria and procedures.~~

~~(c) A description of the service area for the program.~~

~~(d) Admission criteria that include at least the following:~~

~~1. A psychiatric diagnosis.~~

~~2. Admission approval by a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or the clinical director.~~

~~(e) Reflects the following characteristics and philosophy of Assertive Community Treatment Teams.~~

~~1. Multi-disciplinary staff organized as a team in which members function interchangeably to provide treatment, rehabilitation, and support to persons with serious mental illness and severe functional disability.~~

~~2. The team is the primary provider of services and is responsible for helping consumers in all aspects of community living.~~

~~3. The majority of services occur in the community in places where consumers spend their time.~~

~~4. Services are highly individualized both among individual consumers and across time for each consumer.~~

~~5. Persistent, creative adaptation of services to be acceptable to consumers provided in a manner of unconditional support.~~

~~(2) The following services must be delivered within the program as indicated by consumer need.~~

~~(a) Intake.~~

~~(b) Physician assessment and treatment.~~

~~(c) Medication administration.~~

~~(d) Medication monitoring.~~

~~(e) Individual and/or group therapy.~~

~~(f) Case management.~~

~~(g) Crisis intervention and resolution.~~

~~(h) Mental health consultation.~~

~~(i) Family therapy.~~

~~(j) Family support and education.~~

~~(k) Basic living skills.~~

~~(3) There must be an assigned team that is identifiable by job title, job description, and job function. The team must have:~~

~~(a) Part-time psychiatric coverage.~~

~~(b) 3 full-time equivalent positions which include at least 1 full-time master's level clinician.~~

~~(c) At least .50 FTE registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, and~~

~~———— (d) ———— A fulltime case manager (staff member who has completed an approved case management training curriculum).~~

~~———— (e) ———— The remaining .5 FTE position may be filled at the agency's discretion by a master's level clinician, a nurse, or a case manager.~~

~~———— (4) ———— The team must function in the following manner:~~

~~———— (a) ———— Each member of the team must be known to the consumer.~~

~~———— (b) ———— Each member of the team must individually provide services to each client in the team's caseload.~~

~~———— (c) ———— The team will conduct staffing of all assigned cases at least twice weekly.~~

~~———— (d) ———— The caseload cannot exceed a 1:12 staff to client ratio where the part-time psychiatrist is not counted as one staff member.~~

~~———— (5) ———— The program coordinator must have a master's degree in a mental health related field and at least 2 years of post-master's direct service experience or be a registered nurse with a minimum of 2 years psychiatric experience.~~

~~———— (6) ———— Services must be available and accessible, including effective communication access for consumers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or limited English proficient, to enrolled consumers 24 hours per day/7 days per week in a manner and at locations that are most conducive to consumers' compliance with treatment and supports. It is not necessary that a member of the ACT team be on call at all times.~~

~~———— (7) ———— The program does not limit length of stay.~~

~~———— (8) ———— The number of contacts as defined in 580-2-9-.21(2) by individual team members and totally for the team varies according to individual consumer need, but should be:~~

~~———— (a) ———— A minimum of once per week for consumers in a maintenance phase up to several times per day for consumers who require it.~~

~~———— (b) ————— Done in a manner to assure that all team members provide services to and are known to the consumer and are capable of stepping in when needed.~~

Author: Division of Mental Illness, DMH

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §22-50-11.

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Repealed: Filed February 17, 2023.