Clinical Guidelines and Service Definitions

Individual-Family-Group/Domestic Violence Treatment

Funding Stream

Medicaid will not pay for Domestic Violence offender treatment. Funding for Domestic Violence treatment may be accessed through Core Services once clients have exhausted other payment options (i.e., Tri-Care, Victim’s Compensation, etc.). Offenders should pay for their treatment or be assessed full fee for service, depending on court order.

Per Core Services policy, Core Services will not pay for adult court ordered State Approved 36 week perpetrator treatment (when there are criminal charges). In those families where Caseworkers believe it to be a hardship or counterproductive for domestic violence offenders to pay for their own treatment in D&N families, the Caseworker shall gain written approval from the supervisor and division manager for that payment. In all such families, the payment of services will be subject to fee assessment of the family.

Definition of Service

- **Service goals are centered on promoting child and family safety and family protective capacity.**
- Therapeutic services that address patterns and dynamics of child, family and spousal/partner violence. Service to include: education on the definitions of abuse/neglect, disclosure of abusive behaviors that lead to DHS involvement, establishment of guidelines around appropriate behaviors, expectations, and disciplinary tactics of parents; effects of family violence on children; empathy and remorse for injuries/trauma to victims; protective parenting; distorted/defensive thinking patterns; trauma, anger, power/control, and victimization issues; cycles of violence/offending, re-offense/relapse prevention; safety planning; and healthy lifestyle and relationship issues.
- Therapeutic services may include one or several means: process groups, psychoeducational groups, individual therapy, family therapy, and/or EMDR. Therapeutic forums where the victim and offender will work together may be offered in compliance with standards based on certified domestic violence treatment. Offender treatment should be addressed before couples/family therapy, or family preservation services are considered, and should only begin with the recommendation of the offender’s treatment provider.
- If an offender has been criminally charged and convicted of domestic violence, the individual must be treated by a state-approved domestic violence treatment provider.

Measurement of Success

- Client demonstrates empathy for the experiences and needs of their children.
- Client demonstrates ability to explain what their protective role and responsibilities entail, the consequences to the children should they fail to protect, and is able to articulate and demonstrate that they value and believe it is their primary responsibility to protect the children.
Clinical Guidelines and Service Definitions
Individual-Family-Group/Domestic Violence Treatment
Continued

**Estimated Length of Treatment:**
Six to nine months

**Frequency of Services:**
Individual and Family Therapy (These services may be bundled): Up to three hours of combined service per week. Provider must be authorized to provide services to individual family members.

Group Treatment (Therapeutic and Psychoeducational): Up to three hours of combined service per week. Provider must be authorized to provide services to individual family members.

**Provider Credentials:**

- **Therapeutic Group:**
  - Have a Master’s degree.
  - Have passed the State of Colorado written licensing exam in any one of the mental health licensing areas (LPC, LMFT, LCSW).

In addition to the above requirements, providers must have the following credentials to provide services for El Paso County clients.
- Demonstrate specialized training, workshops, or experience in Family Therapy and Risk/Safety Assessment with an emphasis on Domestic Violence Treatment.
- A minimum of eight hours per year of continuing education, training, and workshops in Family Therapy with an emphasis on Domestic Violence will be mandated for all providers.

- **Psychoeducational Group (Including DOVE Group):**
  - Must hold a Bachelor’s Degree in a mental health related field,
  - Have two to three years of experience in advocacy or domestic violence treatment, and be under the bi-monthly supervision of a Master’s Level Licensed Provider,
  - Or have been previously included through grandfathering and meet the following criteria:
    - hold a High School Diploma
    - have three years of advocacy experience, have completed Advocacy Training Levels I and II
    - have completed 25-30 hours of Specified Agency Training
    - currently participate in an Agency Sponsored Facilitators Meeting at least one time monthly, and
    - be under the bi-monthly supervision of Master’s Level Licensed Provider.

**Provider Responsibilities:**
Refer to Core Services Handbook or Provider Manual.

Providers will have monthly direct personal contact with caseworkers to discuss the status/progress of the case.
Clinical Guidelines and Service Definitions
Individual-Family-Group/Domestic Violence Treatment
Continued

**Caseworker Responsibilities:**
Refer to *Core Services Handbook* or *Provider Manual* sheet.

**Staffing:**
An initial staffing will be held within thirty days of service. Additional staffings will be held as needed. Each staffing should:
- Be strength-based, family-centered, and
- Identify clear goals, objectives, interventions, and time lines.