



April 1, 2016

Attn: Optum Public Sector Fee-For-Service Providers

Re: Upcoming Changes Impacting FFS Network

Over the last two years Medi-Cal Expansion has had a significant impact on the San Diego County Behavioral Health System. As an Optum Public Sector Fee-For-Service Provider, you are a vital part of our San Diego County Behavioral Health System. As we continue to move forward, we want to keep you informed of these changes as they may impact your practice serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

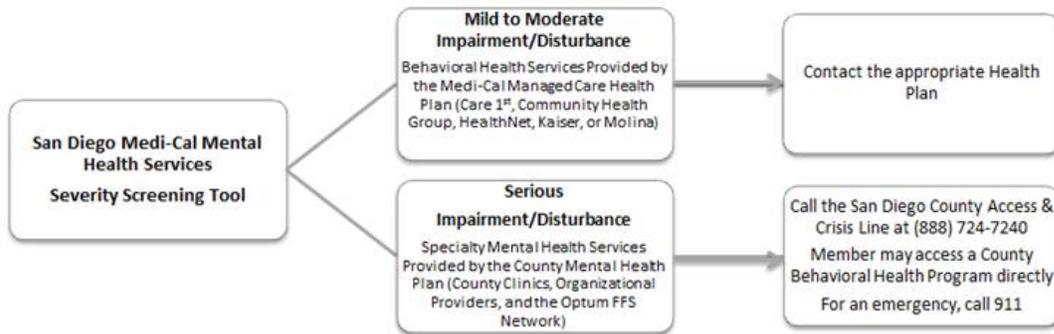
**CLIENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE IMPAIRMENT/DISTURBANCE:** In January 2014, the Department of Health Care Services for the State of California obligated Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) to provide mental health services to beneficiaries with mild to moderate impairment of mental, emotional, or behavioral functioning. Within San Diego County, the five managed care plans are Care 1<sup>st</sup>, Community Health Group, HealthNet, Kaiser, and Molina. Each Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan has its own network of contracted behavioral health providers to serve their beneficiaries. You may have been or could be contacted by the MCP to join their network of providers.

**CLIENTS WITH SEVERE IMPAIRMENT/DISTURBANCE:** The County Mental Health Plan (which consists of the County Clinics, Organizational Providers, and the Optum FFS Network) provide services to those individuals with more severe behavioral health impairment. This includes the FFS Network who historically may have seen a range of mild, moderate and severe levels of functioning.

**HOW THESE CHANGES WILL AFFECT YOU:** We want to make sure you understand that as a result of this the FFS Network has been shifting to serve a population that is more severely impaired. This pertains to new referrals to FFS Providers moving forward and not existing clients. This shift also means that we will be making adjustments to our utilization management process to align with best practice treatment for this population. Our current utilization management standards will continue until further notice.

**FRAMEWORK AND TOOLS:** San Diego County Behavioral Health Services collaborated with the five local Medi-Cal MCPs to develop a shared conceptual framework for evaluating clients as having either mild, moderate, or severe impairment. To assist with operationalizing the

framework of this expanded system, the workgroup developed a variety of tools to serve as guides in understanding this new framework. The tools help to provide consistency to assess impairment so that clients can be referred to the appropriate system. The tools have been posted on our website: [www.optumsandiego.com](http://www.optumsandiego.com) under the County Staff & Providers- Healthy San Diego Tab. I encourage you to review these tools to better understanding this process.



We will continue to provide additional information to you as we come closer to formalizing additional changes and anticipate sharing more details in May. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at 619-641-5302 if you any questions.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our Medi-Cal beneficiaries. We greatly appreciate the work you do and look forward to continuing to work with you on this process.

Sincerely,



Kristie Preston, LMFT  
Clinical Director  
Optum Public Sector San Diego