Community Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Centers, Request for Information Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a standardized assessment that must be used?

For mental health assessments, OSPS requests that providers follow Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements.

For substance use assessments, providers should follow SUPR Rule 2060 content requirements, including the psychosocial section. OSPS will not require physician (MD) review or signature for substance use assessments.

Is any training required?

At this time, OSPS does not anticipate the need to train behavioral health providers on assessment requirements. However, behavioral health centers will be expected to internally train their colleagues on agreed-upon referral processes, client absorption workflows, and record-release procedures.

Does OSPS expect the behavioral health center to complete every evaluation for the geographic region?

OSPS prefers to partner with providers who can complete all court-ordered evaluations. However, OSPS may also partner with behavioral health centers that have partial capacity and are unable to complete every evaluation. We recognize that operational challenges, client-specific factors, and unforeseen circumstances may affect a provider's ability to meet the full volume of court-ordered assessments within a geographic region.

Does OSPS expect behavioral health providers to provide follow-up assessments after the initial evaluation?

No. However, it is hoped that many OSPS clients will be absorbed into ongoing behavioral health services to address needs such as mental health, substance use, relationships, and daily functioning.

Director Cara LeFevour Smith

Are there any stipulations regarding behavioral health assessor credentials?

Assessors must have, at minimum, a graduate degree in a field such as counseling or social work. If the assessor does not hold a clinical license, the assessment must be reviewed and signed by a clinically licensed provider (e.g., LCPC or LCSW).

Could court appearances or testimony be required from assessors?

Court appearances or testimony may be required if ordered by the Court. Based upon OSPS' experience, however, such appearances are uncommon due to the court having a copy of the provider's findings and treatment recommendations.

Is the RFI limited to OSPS counties, or is it open to all Illinois counties?

The RFI is limited to OSPS counties. We are requesting that mental health and SUPR service providers submit responses only for counties served by OSPS.