

## **Coastal Plains Community MHMR Center's Local Planning and Network Development**

**What?** Coastal Plains Community MHMR Center is required to develop a local network development plan regarding the configuration and development of its mental health provider network. The plan must reflect local needs and priorities to maximize consumer choice and access to qualified service providers.

**Why?** This is the result of changes coming out of the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and was the resolution of the "Provider of Last Resort" language that came out of the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. Though initially it was thought that the requirements were related to mental retardation services, there was clarification sought from the State Attorney General's office which indicated that the new rule applied to Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA), such as Coastal Plains Community MHMR Center's mental health services. Upon the determination that the rule applied to mental health authorities, multiple agencies and advocacy groups worked together to develop guidelines which then became law during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. This law is called "Local Planning and Network Development (LPND)" which "...charges the LMHAs with the responsibility for ensuring that mental health services are provided in their local area and, further, requires LMHAs to consider public input, ultimate cost-benefit, and client care issues to ensure consumer choice and best use of public money in assembling a network of service providers."

**Law:** Under the Texas Health and Safety Code (Section 533.035) which was just quoted, this law requires the Local Mental Health Authorities to provide management and oversight to a system of service delivery which offers consumers a choice among multiple service providers. The goal of this process and plan is for Community Centers, like Coastal Plains MHMR, to increasingly expand its network of providers to allow consumers to have choice among multiple service providers; and for the Center to provide management and oversight of the provider network.

**What we need from you, the Stakeholder, is your input regarding such things as:**

- Service needs and priorities of children, adolescents and adults ;
- Crisis response system and services;
- Development of the external provider network; and
- Other significant issues and concerns.

**Under the new rules and requirements, the Center can only be a provider of services if:**

- There are no interested qualified providers;
- There is only 1 other qualified provider;
- The responding other qualified providers do not propose to meet at least 100% of the DSHS contract target population or meet the same level of current access to services;
- The Center must maintain some services to preserve critical infrastructure;
- Existing agreements impose restrictions on the Center's ability to contract a portion of services because there would be an unsustainable loss of revenue.

**YOUR INPUT INTO THIS PROCESS IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE!**

**We want you to participate.**

**Learn more by utilizing one of the resources below:**

- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhcommunity/LPND/>
- [www.cpmhmr.org](http://www.cpmhmr.org)
- CPMHMR's Planning Coordinator: Andrea Tippit at [atippit@cpmhmr.org](mailto:atippit@cpmhmr.org)

**Please put "LPND" on the subject line of your e-mails.**