

# NetworkNotes

United Behavioral Health-Minnesota Care Advocacy Center News for Medica Network Clinicians and Facilities

Spring 2011

## LOCUS Required for IRTS, ACT, ARMHS, Day Treatment and PHP

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) issued a [Bulletin #09-53-04C](#) in June of 2010 outlining the use and implementation timeline of the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) for selected adult mental health services for recipients of Minnesota Health Care Programs (PMAP, MNCare, SNBC).

Providers of Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS), Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS), Day Treatment and Partial Hospitalization services are required to use LOCUS or another level of care tool recognized nationally with prior approval by the State. When determining eligibility and making referrals for these services, the LOCUS must be used in conjunction with a completed diagnostic assessment and functional assessment that reflects the Enrollee's current mental health status.

As stated in the DHS bulletin, "Case managers will need to complete LOCUS as it relates to the assessment process and regarding referrals, particularly to the aligned services that will require a LOCUS score for



eligibility purposes. The case manager will need to provide a current LOCUS when referring recipients to those services that will be required to use the LOCUS for eligibility." Starting January 1, 2011, Medica Behavioral Health requires that Adult MH-TCM providers use the LOCUS and keep a copy in the member record, which may be subject to an audit.

Medica Behavioral Health is not requiring that the LOCUS be submitted to receive authorization for the above services. However, a copy of the LOCUS must be maintained in the member's record and is subject to a provider audit.

The information herein offers informational resources and tools and is intended for educational purposes only. All treatment and level of care decisions are at the discretion of the clinician. Nothing herein is intended as legal advice or opinions. Please consult your legal advisor related to your particular practice.