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SERVICE STANDARDS FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

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Reviewed/approved by the Continuum of Care Committee	March 10, 2016	February 13, 2020	October 8, 2020		
Approved by the Planning Council	March 16, 2016	February 19, 2020	November 18, 2020		

In addition to the Universal Standards, you are also expected to follow the following guidelines.

I. GOAL

The goal of psychosocial support services for people living with HIV/AIDS is to address the continuing physiological and social issues of individuals living with HIV.

II. DESCRIPTION

Psychosocial Support Services provide group or individual support and counseling services to assist HRSA RWHAP-eligible PLWH to address behavioral and physical health concerns. Activities provided under the Psychosocial Support Services may include:

- Bereavement counseling
- Caregiver/respite support (HRSA RWHAP Part D)
- Child abuse and neglect counseling
- HIV support groups
- Nutrition counseling provided by a non-registered dietitian (see Medical Nutrition Therapy Services)
- Pastoral care/counseling services
- Support and counseling activities

III. KEY SERVICE COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Individual and group counseling activities, including drop-in sessions. These counseling sessions should be structured, with a plan or curriculum, to move clients toward identified goals.
- Peer counseling or peer support groups offered by individuals living with HIV or those with similar life experiences who are knowledgeable about HIV and are culturally sensitive to the special populations. These support groups should be purposeful, with agendas and a plan, to move the group toward identified goals
- Nutritional counseling services for individuals living with HIV that include the provision of education, but do not include the distribution of nutritional supplements
- Caregiver emotional support groups, pastoral care groups, and bereavement counseling groups — HIV-affected individuals are eligible to receive these specific psychosocial support services in a group setting only. An HIV-affected individual will describe the nature of the relationship with an individual living with HIV who meets the Ryan White eligibility criteria. Providers must document the established relationship

IV. SERVICE LIMITATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

Funds may not be used for social/recreational activities or nutritional supplements

"To plan for the development, implementation and continual improvement of the health care and treatment services for People Living With and Affected by HIV & AIDS who reside in the five New Jersey Counties of Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Warren."

V. ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE PLAN

A. Development and implementation of an individualized service plan

Develop a plan that is agreed upon by the client and agency, which outlines service goals and the services provided to meet these objectives

B. Documentation

Written documentation for each HIV-affected individual must include the relationship to a Ryan White client living with HIV.

VI. ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION OF CLIENTS

Refer To Universal Service Standards

VII. STAFF QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

Qualifications/Training

- HIV experience/training preferred
- Psychosocial support service providers possess the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to competently perform expected services
- When applicable, the agency is responsible for ensuring that staff providing psychosocial support is overseen by a licensed or certified professional and/or that staff members consult with practitioners who have extensive HIV experience
- Agency will provide new hires with training regarding confidentiality, client rights and the agency's grievance procedure.
- Pastoral care must be provided by a Institutional Pastoral Care Program
- Valid Driver's license if needed
- Annual staff evaluation/review

VIII. PROGRAM GUIDANCE [HIV/AIDS Bureau Policy 16-02]

Funds under this service category may not be used to provide nutritional supplements (See Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals).

HRSA RWHAP-funded pastoral counseling must be available to all eligible clients regardless of their religious denominational affiliation.

HRSA RWHAP Funds may not be used for social/recreational activities or to pay for a client's gym membership.

For HRSA RWHAP Part D recipients, outpatient mental health services provided to affected clients (people not identified with HIV) should be reported as Psychosocial Support Services; this is generally only a permissible expense under HRSA RWHAP Part D.

See also Respite Care Services

Summary of Changes:

- Staff Qualifications and Training - Pastoral care must be provided by a Institutional Pastoral Care Program.
- Modified the language from HIV-positive individuals and HIV-infected individuals to individuals living with HIV throughout the document.
- The bullet points that limited the number of sessions provided by the agencies were removed since there is no guidance with this limitation.
- A bullet was added for clarification that pastoral care must be provided by an institutional pastoral care
- Other grammatical errors were corrected throughout the document