

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Val 

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Meyer / Steve</i>	DATE <i>9-21-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100138</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 10/5/09, e-mail response attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>9-30-09</i> DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1. <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>10-1-09</i> <i>9-30-09</i>		
2. <i>Melanie Stein</i>	<i>10/2 ok</i> <i>RS</i>	<i>not</i>	
3.			
4.			

Please Sign & Return

RECEIVED
Dept. of Health & Human Services

SEP 24 2009

Bureau of Health Services

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 31, 2009

Attention: Pam Carpenter

From: Sherry Bramlett
(864)247-6555

worldravelgirl@bellsouth.net

Secretary for Wes Lothery, M.Ed. LPC

Re: Letter regarding a Medicaid exemption for Wes Lothery, Licensed Professional Counselor.

Thank you so much for your help with this matter. I have enjoyed speaking with you and I appreciate very much your kindness and willingness to help. If you see that you need any other information please do not hesitate to contact me or Wes.

**RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
BUT NOT ACKNOWLEDGED**

Sherry

Heidi this letter + let
me know what you think

**RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
BUT NOT ACKNOWLEDGED**

Need Marilyn Review

Thursday, August 20, 2009

4 to whom

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to let Medicaid aware that Dr. Sugar is continuing the program designed for Allied Professionals under Physician Supervision, Not Specializing in Psychiatric Care.

Under this program Dr. Sugar will continue to monitor, advise and see patients as needed for the above program. Mr. Wes Loebary is the Certified Mental Health Counselor and Ms. Sherry Bramlett has replaced Natalie Wood for billing.

Dr. Sugar is on call 24/7 for all patients and for the Allied Professional if needed. Dr. Sugar will provide clinical support and review documentation to assure that services provided are appropriate and medically necessary to the patient.

Dr. Sugar will do an initial assessment for a patient within a week of initial treatment if the patient does not have a primary doctor referring the patient to the program.

Dr. Sugar will be on call 24/7 for the allied Professional to contact if needed for a patient. Dr. Sugar will provide clinical support and review documentation to assure that services provided are appropriate and medically necessary to the patient.

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A referral from another physician must include the following:

1. Office notes stating the need for counseling services.
2. A diagnosis made by the primary care physician
3. Individual and/or family counseling services being requested.
4. Must be signed by the primary care physician. (No stamped signatures).

To meet the requirements for Medicaid the following items:

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1. The counselor must meet with the physician to discuss treatment issues (progress summaries) at least every three months. If needed, the counselor can meet with the physician 3 times in 3 months.
2. The progress summaries should address the patient's progress towards treatment objectives, appropriateness of the service being furnished, and recommendations for the continued need for services.
3. Dr. Sugar will be available 24 hours/7 days per week for the counselor to contact in case of an emergency or crisis.
4. Dr. Sugar will assume all professional liability for services rendered by staff under his supervision.
5. All records will be copied and given to Dr. Sugar before any billing is completed for the day of service.
6. All staff will give copies of his/her credentials for Dr. Sugar to have on file.
7. Dr. Sugar will pay all salaries of allied professionals and other personnel involved with the program according to contract.

Allied Professional duties

1. The counselor will provide copies of the referrals and all notes prior to billing Medicaid.
2. The counselor will call and discuss any relevant issues that may arise with a patient.
3. If a patient does not have a primary care physician the counselor is required to notify Dr. Sugar and/or his office manager immediately to establish patient with the practice. If the patient requires a pediatrician the counselor will request a pediatrician to admit the patient to their practice and notify Dr. Sugar and/or office manager of which pediatrician the patient will be seeing for evaluation.
4. The counselor will keep complete and thorough notes whenever he/she is treating a patient.
5. If the counselor decides that the patient requires more treatment that he can offer, a consult to a psychiatrist will be given.
6. All phone calls must be documented.
7. If any amounts of monies are asked per Medicaid to be reimbursed the allied professionals and other personnel involved will reimburse Dr. Sugar the portion of funds associated with the items Medicaid requires reimbursement.

Billing Specialist Duties:

1. A billing specialist is required to notify Dr. Sugar and/or office manager of any change in rules with Medicaid.
2. He/She must note that all progress notes must be completed before billing for visits.
3. He/She must monitor and organize counselor's visits with Dr. Sugar.
4. Bill timely for visits, report any irregularities to Dr. Sugar and/or office manager.
5. Maintain accurate documentation on counselor's credentials and report any irregularities to Dr. Sugar and/or office manager.

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6. If any amounts of monies are asked per Medicaid to be reimbursed the allied professionals and other personnel involved will reimburse Dr. Sugar the portion of funds associated with the items Medicaid requires reimbursement

Place of Service:

We request an exception for the place of service due to the following concerns:

1. Dr. Sugar's clientele are usually elderly, with multiple disease factors.
2. Dr. Sugar's office is designed for the care of individuals who are ill and disabled.
3. Children that need therapy may be overwhelmed by the adult population that may be inappropriate verbally, or physically and frightened by the appearance of the very ill person.
4. Mr. Lothery has a practice at present and has a wonderful setting for therapy. It is more like a home setting.
5. Dr. Sugar is 5 minutes from Mr. Lothery's office.

Our only goal is to help the children that qualify for your program. Dr. Sugar and Mr. Lothery work well together and we feel the children have benefited greatly from this service. A surprise and added bonus was that Dr. Sugar is seeing many parents as patients and this gives Dr. Sugar and Mr. Lothery the privilege of more insight that many doctors are not able to have.

Sincerely,

Shirley Sugar, Office Manager

Darryl Sugar MD

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**WES LOTHERRY, M. Ed.
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR**

I am a Graduate of the University of South Carolina with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. I received a Master's Degree in Counseling from Clemson University.

I have been in the counseling profession for 34 years working for the Department of Mental Health and for the last 15 years privately. I enjoy seeing both children and adults. I have worked extensively with the chronically mentally ill, depression and anxiety. I have specialized in family therapy, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and related issues. I grew up in Greenville and have resided in our family home place for the past 35 years. I am committed to helping the residents of Oconee County.

I am now accepting new patient's children, adolescents and adults. Medicaid and Insurance are both accepted. Please send referral form with office note and I will be happy to contact the patient to make an appointment.

Log 138-Left messages for Senator Alexander on 10/2 and 10/5. Talked with Mr. Lothery on 10/5- I explained the purpose of the allied health professional program (he is supposed to be supporting MD in his practice with his patients), that it did not fit under this program for him to be seeing children but supervised by & billing under MD who works with chronically ill adults. I explained that we will be shifting to direct reimbursement of licensed independent counselors in less than a year. I requested that he contact a pediatrician who refers to him to see if they could establish a relationship. I explained how he could currently provide services for DSS kids using QPL.

Felicity Myers

10/5/09



10/5/09

Brenda James - Re: Log 000138 - Dr. Sugar

From: Nancy Rabert
To: Felicity Myers
Date: 10/5/2009 2:48 PM
Subject: Re: Log 000138 - Dr. Sugar
CC: Brenda James

Ok -
Brenda - can you close the log via the response from Felicity?
Thanks,
Nancy

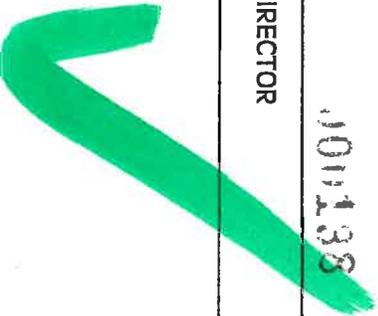
>>> Felicity Myers 10/5/2009 2:46 PM >>>
nancy- I'm handling this one verbally.

>>> Nancy Rabert 10/5/2009 2:45 PM >>>
Think Bobbie put the folder in your "in" box on Friday. Am attaching the efile, just in case you might need it.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>M. Jones</i>	DATE <i>9-21-09</i>
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worldtraveler1@bellsouth.net
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Sherry

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Sincerely,

Shirley Sugar, Office Manager

Darryl Sugar MD

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BUT NOT ACKNOWLEDGED**

Wes Lotbery, M. Ed

Licensed Professional Counselor

200C West North First Street Seneca SC 29678

(864) 972-9310

August 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Seneca SC and I specialize in working with children and teenagers. I retired from Oconee Mental Health but decided that I still wanted to be able to help children so I started my own private counseling business. I work alongside Dr Darryl Sugar. Dr Sugar specializes in Nephrology and Internal medicine and most of his patient load is elderly people. We are asking for an exemption from Medicaid because we do not believe it is in the children's best interest if they must go to Dr Sugar's office far me to treat them. My office is located 5 minutes away from Dr Sugar's and he is always available by telephone should I need him. His clientele would not be receptive to children in the waiting room and I strongly feel that the children would be very uncomfortable in his office. My office is a very cozy setting. It is in a historical home in the downtown area and it does not have the medical office setting that most children are frightened of. I strive to provide the best possible care for the children because they are most important and in providing such care they must feel comfortable. I currently receive referrals from all Pediatric offices in this area along with many from family practitioners. Oconee Mental Health, DSS, & local schools also refer to me. There is a tremendous need in this county for counseling services. Currently Holly Partin is the only other counselor who has an exemption from Medicaid in Oconee County. She also sends referrals my way and we are supportive of one another because our main concern is the welfare of the children. Oconee Mental Health refers to me because of my expertise and because I can see the children sooner and more frequently. I am only able to meet with the children a certain number of times due to Medicaid's rules while Mental Health is granted an unlimited amount of visits with each child. Currently I can see each child for 12 visits per calendar year under Medicaid's rules. My hope is that we can work together and allow me to be able to continue giving the quality of care that I am known for. Dr. Sugar and I work very closely together even though we are not located in the same building. We must remember that the children are most important and that they should receive the best possible care that is available. I feel that the proper care can be best given in a comfortable, homelike setting and I provide that in my current office. Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wes Lotbery, M. Ed.

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LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR**

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