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FROM: Rosie Andueza, Program Manager, Division of Behavioral Health

SUBJECT: GAIN/SUD Assessment Requirements

Greetings all! Thank you all for your continued patience and collaboration as the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) works to expand Medicaid to qualifying adults. We would like to thank all of the providers who reached out to us or to BPA Health to express your concerns about lengthy assessment requirements under Medicaid Expansion. These requirements would have included clients having both a GAIN assessment and a Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment (CDA) in order to access Medicaid funded Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services. For the transition-aged population, this requirement would have also included the CANS assessment.

In order to reduce the onerous assessment requirements for clients trying to access valuable and life-saving SUD treatment services through the Idaho Behavioral Health Program, beginning January 1, 2020 DBH will no longer require the use of the GAIN assessment tool. Previously, DBH mandated that the GAIN was the only state-approved SUD assessment tool. Today, DBH is moving away from a single state-approved SUD assessment tool and establishing a new standard which will prescribe what an assessment tool must contain. The standard will include the following requirements:

“Substance use screening; when a substance use is identified, the provider must assess and document the needs in each of the following ASAM dimensions: — Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential; Dimension 2—Biomedical Conditions and Complications Dimension 3—Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications; Dimension 4—Readiness to Change; Dimension 5—Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential; Dimension 6—Recovery/Living Environment. The ASAM assessment and placement determination must be completed by an individual trained in the ASAM criteria multidimensional assessment process and level of care placement decision making.”

We will notify this network when the standards are officially updated and posted.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to advocate for our clients and we hope this change will better promote timely access to treatment for clients and less administrative burden on providers. Please stay tuned for additional details regarding the standards DBH is establishing.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rosie Andueza at (208) 334-5934 or Rosie.Andueza@dhw.idaho.gov. Thank you!