

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will hold a public hearing for the purpose of accepting testimony on the proposed changes to the mobile response and stabilization service (MRSS) rule, O.A.C. 5122-29-14.

Because LSC has a policy that when an agency amends approximately more than 50% of a rule, the agency must rescind the existing rule and enact a new rule bearing the same rule number, OhioMHAS is using the “rescind/new” technique with this rule.

Here is a summary of the major changes from the current rule:

--Adds definitions.

--Modifies the description of the service.

--Specifies that instances in which MRSS may be delivered using a telehealth modality are to be clinically appropriate, and adds as an example of these instances when a mobile response has been requested by a clinician is not available to respond, in person, as part of the MRSS team.

--Specifies that from the initial mobile response to the end of the stabilization phase, MRSS may be provided for up to six weeks or 42 days.

--Specifies that if a caller requests mobile response later than 60 minutes, the response is to occur within 48 hours *or the next business day*, whichever occurs first.

--Requires an MRSS team be composed of both of the following, subject to the qualification in (c):

(a) A certified family peer supporter or certified youth supporter who demonstrates competency in the care and provision of services to young people and has a scope of practice that includes young people with mental health disorders and substance use disorders.



(b) A QBHS who demonstrates competency in the care and provision of services to young people and has a scope of practice that includes young people with mental health disorders and substance use disorders.

(c) If the clinician on the team, as described in (a), requires clinical or work supervision, the team must also include an independently licensed professional to supervise the MRSS team. That individual must hold a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Ohio.

As maintained from the current rule, the proposed rule specifies that the MRSS team must have ready access to a psychiatrist, certified nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist for consultation purposes as needed. The psychiatrist, certified nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist must hold a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Ohio.

--Eliminates the requirement, in paragraph (J) of the current rule, that each MRSS provider achieve and maintain a minimum benchmark score of 26 as a component of overall fidelity within three years of initial certification.

--Requires that the organization conducting an annual fidelity review utilize the MRSS provider fidelity tool on OhioMHAS's MRSS web site.

-- Requires that data that must be collected and submitted as part of MRSS quality improvement activities be submitted through the data management system designated by OhioMHAS.

--Clarifies that it is each MRSS team member and after-hours telephone support staff person who must complete OhioMHAS's approved initial and ongoing MRSS training as appropriate to their role.

--For three years after the rule's effective date, requires that an MRSS provider provide MRSS, at a minimum, between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm, Monday through Friday, including holidays. Also requires that a caller that contacts the MRSS provider outside of the provider's operational hours be provided with after-hours telephonic crisis de-escalation support and be scheduled for a mobile response the next business day. After three years, then requires the provider to provide MRSS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.



--Requires that an initial response be conducted by (a) a clinician (see definition in paragraph (A)), (b) a clinician and either a QBHS, certified family peer supporter, or certified youth supporter, or (c) a combination of at least one QBHS and either another QBHS or a certified family peer supporter or certified youth peer supporter.

--If a clinician is unable to be present in person at the location where the crisis is occurring or location specified by the young person, their family, or the other individual responsible for the welfare of the young person, requires the QBHS, certified family peer supporter, or certified youth peer supporter to contact the MRSS team's clinician before leaving the premises of the site of the response so that the clinician can participate in the initial response by telehealth. If a telehealth connection cannot be made and sustained at the site of the response, requires the clinician to be available for telephone consultation or to go to the site of the response.

-- Regarding de-escalation services, requires that administration of the Ohio Children's Initiative Brief Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment be performed by a provider who is a certified CANS assessor if one of three criteria is present. Also requires identification of the young person's established behavioral health providers, notifying such providers of the crisis response and assisting with coordination of services.

--Specifies the consent requirements for the service.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 10 am, in Room 3688 of the Rhodes State Office Tower located at 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 36th Floor. At this hearing, OhioMHAS will accept verbal and written testimony on the rule under consideration.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code. Any person affected by the rules may appear and be heard in person, by his or her attorney, or both; may present his or her position, arguments, or contentions, orally or in writing; offer and examine witnesses; and present evidence tending to show that the rules, if adopted or effectuated, will be unreasonable or unlawful.

To obtain a copy of the rule, please visit the Register of Ohio:

<https://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>.



Persons may also submit written testimony in lieu of appearing at the public hearing. Written testimony sent by mail must be postmarked no later than Thursday, February 13, 2025. Written testimony transmitted by email must be received no later than 5 pm on that same day. Written testimony may be mailed to: Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Division of Legal Services, Attention: Lisa Musielewicz, 30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430; or emailed to MH-SOT-MRSS-rules@mha.ohio.gov.

To join the meeting by Microsoft Teams on February 13th, click this link:

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Or, alternatively, you may access the meeting by telephone:

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