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May 4, 2001

DMH LETTER NO.: 01-02

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: DIRECTION OF MEDI-CAL MENTAL HEALTH

SERVICES

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is providing the following clarification regarding the direction of specialty mental health services provided by Mental Health Plans (MHPs) as a part of the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services Consolidation program.

The terms of current year contracts between county Mental Health Plans (MHPs) and the Department of Mental Health (Article V- Duties of the Contractor, Section E- Quality Management) include a requirement that the MHP ensure that all covered services delivered by organizational providers, including the MHP, are provided under the direction of a physician; a licensed/registered/waivered psychologist, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist; or a registered nurse. MHPs have the flexibility to determine how the direction of service will be accomplished. Examples of service direction include, but are not limited to: (1) being the person directly providing the service; (2) acting as a clinical team leader; (3) direct or functional supervision of service delivery; or (4) approval of client plans. It should be noted that DMH does not require the person providing direction to be physically present at the service site to exercise direction.

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If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your liaison in the Technical Assistance and Training Unit.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Teri Barthels for:

CAROL HOOD Deputy Director Systems of Care

cc: California Mental Health Planning Council Chief, Technical Assistance and Training