

WAC 246-341-1105 Behavioral health residential and inpatient intervention, assessment and treatment services—Certification standards.

(1) Agencies certified for behavioral health residential and inpatient services provide behavioral health intervention, assessment and treatment services in a residential treatment facility or hospital. Residential and inpatient services under this certification include:

(a) In accordance with the service standards in WAC 246-341-1108:
(i) Adult residential and inpatient substance use disorder treatment; and
(ii) Youth residential and inpatient substance use disorder treatment;

(b) In accordance with the service standards in WAC 246-341-1118:
(i) Adult residential and inpatient mental health treatment; and
(ii) Youth residential and inpatient mental health treatment.

(2) Agencies certified for behavioral health residential and inpatient services must:

(a) Be a facility licensed by the department as:
(i) A hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW;
(ii) A private psychiatric hospital licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW;

(iii) A private alcohol and substance use disorder hospital licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW; or

(iv) A residential treatment facility licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW;

(b) Ensure access to necessary medical treatment, including emergency life-sustaining treatment and medication;

(c) Review the individual's crisis or recovery plan, if applicable and available;

(d) Determine the individual's risk of harm to self, others, or property;

(e) Coordinate with the individual's current treatment provider, if applicable, to assure continuity of care during admission and upon discharge;

(f) Develop and provide to the individual a discharge summary that must include:

(i) A continuing care recommendation; and
(ii) Scheduled follow-up appointments, including the time and date of the appointment(s), when possible.

(3) If providing services to adults and minors, an agency must ensure that a minor who is at least age 13 but not yet age 18 is served with adults only if the minor's individual service record contains:

(a) Documentation that justifies such placement;
(b) A professional judgment that placement in an inpatient facility that serves adults will not harm the minor; and

(c) Ensure the following for individuals who share a room:
(i) An individual 15 years of age or younger must not room with an individual 18 years of age or older;

(ii) Anyone under 13 years of age must be evaluated for clinical appropriateness before being placed in a room with an individual 13 to 16 years of age; and

(iii) An individual 16 or 17 years of age must be evaluated for clinical appropriateness before being placed in a room with an individual 18 years of age or older.

(4) An agency providing residential or inpatient mental health or substance use disorder services to youth must follow these additional requirements:

(a) Allow communication between the youth and the youth's parent, or if applicable, a legal guardian, and facilitate the communication when clinically appropriate.

(b) Notify the parent or legal guardian within two hours of any significant decrease in the behavioral or physical health status of the youth and document all notification and attempts of notification in the individual service record.

(c) Discharge the youth to the care of the youth's parent, or if applicable, legal guardian. For an unplanned discharge and when the parent or legal guardian is not available, the agency must contact the relevant state's child protective services.

(d) Ensure a staff member who demonstrates knowledge of adolescent development and substance use disorders is available at the agency or available by phone.

(e) Ensure staff members are trained in safe and therapeutic techniques for dealing with a youth's behavior and emotional crisis, including:

(i) Verbal de-escalation;

(ii) Crisis intervention;

(iii) Emotional regulation;

(iv) Suicide assessment and intervention;

(v) Conflict management and problem solving skills;

(vi) Management of assaultive behavior;

(vii) Proper use of therapeutic physical intervention techniques;

and

(viii) Emergency procedures.

(f) Unless otherwise advised by the treatment provider:

(i) Provide group meetings to promote social and emotional growth.

(ii) Provide leisure and other therapy or related activities.

(iii) Provide seven or more hours of structured recreation each week, that is led or supervised by staff members.

(iv) For each youth who is unable to attend school for an estimated period of four weeks or more during the academic school year, the agency must work with the school district in which the youth is enrolled or the youth's educational provider to assure the academic needs of the youth are met.

(g) Conduct random and regular room checks when an individual is in their room, and more often when clinically indicated.

(h) Ensure each individual's individual service record:

(i) Contains any consent or release forms signed by the youth and their parent or legal guardian;

(ii) Contains the parent's or other referring person's agreement to participate in the treatment process, as appropriate, and if possible; and

(iii) Documents any problems identified in specific youth assessment, including any referrals to school and community support services, on the individual service plan.

(5) An agency that provides services to youth may continue to provide services to a youth who turns 18 years old while admitted, so long as it is documented that it is in the best interest of the individual and the agency meets the requirements in subsection (4)(h) of this section.

(6) An agency certified for behavioral health residential and in-patient intervention, assessment and treatment services may choose to provide services to individuals on a less restrictive alternative order in accordance with the requirements in WAC 246-341-0805.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 71.24.037, 71.05.560, 71.34.380, 18.205.160, 43.70.080(5), 41.05.750, 43.70.250, 74.09.520, and chapters 71.05, 71.12, 71.24, and 71.34 RCW. WSR 22-24-091, § 246-341-1105, filed 12/6/22, effective 5/1/23.]