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Champa, Heidi

From: Michelle Lee Wangler <mwangler@tcvmhmr.org>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 11:35 AM
To: PW, OPCRegs
Subject: Outpatient Regulations

I'm writing in support of the changes to the outpatient regulations regarding the extended time frames for psychiatrists to review, approve and sign treatments plans.

I oversee a large outpatient program with over 1,000 individuals seen annually. The shortage of psychiatrist time is already a problem in Pennsylvania, however, the requirements for psychiatrists to sign treatment plans every 120 days, takes time away from patient care.

At least 30% of our consumers see a therapist only and do not take psychotropic medications. Many of them come to outpatient services for therapy only. I believe that a licensed therapist should be able to sign treatment plans for individuals receiving therapy only, and should not require a psychiatrist's signature.

"The time frame for the psychiatrist to review, approve and sign the treatment plans is proposed to be amended. The psychiatrist will be responsible for reviewing and approving the initial treatment plan, in conjunction with the mental health professional and the individual receiving services, within 30 days of intake. The psychiatrist shall review and approve the updated treatment plans within 1 year of the previous psychiatric review and approval."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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