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From: [Thomas, Corinne](#)
To: [PW, PRTFRegs](#)
Subject: PRTF Feedback/Questions/Comments
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 12:57:21 PM

Good Afternoon,

During the Public Comment Period we believe more detailed feedback from Erie County Providers & CCBH was conveyed through formal submission, but our Office wanted to also pass this listing of potential concerning proposed PRTF Regs sections along for consideration.

Respectfully,

Corinne

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Feedback:

- From Proposed PRTF Regs: *Staff employed by an RTF that seeks licensure as a PRTF may be affected by the proposed rulemaking because the minimum qualifications and responsibilities of positions will be changed to meet the behavioral health needs of children, youth or young adults in PRTFs. Staff may also need to obtain additional education or training.*
 - Feedback/Comment: How does this impact current, local RTF providers?
- From Proposed PRTF Regs: *The proposed rulemaking also affects children, youth or young adults by including requirements for secure PRTFs. A child, youth or young adult whose treatment is funded by MA may receive medically necessary treatment in a secure PRTF without being an alleged delinquent or adjudicated delinquent, which is currently required. And a few pages later the proposed regs stated: There are currently no secure PRTFs in the Commonwealth.*
 - Feedback/Comment: There is concern for this approach (as this reads someone without criminal charges could be placed in a detention-like setting – are we reading this correctly?)
- From Proposed PRTF Regs: *The proposed rulemaking also requires that a mental health*

professional be available at the PRTF during awake hours each day. Awake hours will be determined by the PRTF but can range from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, depending on the PRTF's structure. The availability of a mental health professional throughout the day and evening hours will ensure that there is a clinician immediately available to respond to treatment needs and will allow for more frequent family therapy, as many families struggle with attending therapy sessions during traditional work hours. Families would also have an extended opportunity to contact the mental health professional working with their child to discuss any concerns that they may have about the treatment their child is receiving. In addition, a mental health professional will be onsite to provide support and guidance to direct care staff relating to treatment.

- Feedback/Comment: How does this impact current, local RTF providers?

- From Proposed PRTF Regs: *The proposed rulemaking also requires additional positions that are not currently required. The additional positions were added to meet Federal requirements specified in 42 CFR § 441.156 (relating to team developing individual plan of care) for PRTFs and to better support the children, youth or young adults with behavioral health needs receiving medically necessary treatment in a PRTF. The new positions include a medical director, treatment team leader, clinical director, mental health professional and a registered nurse. A medical director may also serve as the treatment team leader and clinical director as long as the requirements of each position are met. The costs of these additional positions may be submitted for payment through the cost reporting process. MA provider rates and capitation rates are anticipated to be adjusted as needed to include the increased costs related to staffing.*
 - Feedback/Comment: How does this impact current, local RTF providers?

- From Proposed PRTF Regs: *Currently, there shall be one child care worker for every eight children, youth or young adults during awake hours and one child care worker for every 16 children, youth or young adults during sleeping hours. Under the proposed rulemaking, § 5330.42 (relating to staff requirements), however, requires one mental health worker for every six children, youth or young adults during awake hours and one mental health worker for every 12 children, youth or young adults during awake hours.*
 - Feedback/Comment: How does this impact current, local RTF providers?