

Comments and Responses to First Public Comment Period: SPA 23-0006
Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)

Comment: One commenter stated the Evidence-Based Practices state plan amendment (SPA) reflects what is “required” but that multisystemic therapy (MST) has relaxed its standards. The commenter recommended changes to the proposed SPA wording to provide flexibility. The suggested changes include: 1) removing the licensure requirement for the MST team staff; 2) adding “unless a formal exception has been granted by MST Services, LLC” to the requirement to have one-third bachelor level staff; 3) removing the requirement to have Master level independently licensed behavioral health professional clinical supervision; 4) changing the requirement to have a licensed master and bachelor level behavioral health staff to “MST-trained behavioral health staff” able to provide 24 hours/day, seven days/week; 5) removing the requirement for a Master level behavioral health practitioner to perform all MST interventions be licensed; and 6) adding language to include “or an MST trained master’s level licensed behavioral health professional working in an agency with access to an independently licensed supervisor supporting the team” to the clinical supervision requirement.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Comment: One commenter recommended including language that explains the goals of Functional Family Therapy (FFT).

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: Two commenters stated that it is not a Family Functional Therapy (FFT) requirement to provide 24 hour/7 days a week program coverage. The commenter also indicated it is not an FFT requirement to be a licensed therapist.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: Two commenters indicated that an active FFT team requires FFT certification of a Clinical Supervisor and at least *two* FFT certified treatment providers, not three, as is stated in the proposed SPA language.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Comment: Two commenters expressed concern about the limited workforce in New Mexico and stated that the requirement to have at least one behavioral health care professional on a mobile crisis team will be challenging due to the shortage of health care professionals in New Mexico.

Department Response: Teams are required to have at least one behavioral health care professional able to conduct a mobile crisis screening and assessment within their permitted scope of practice under state law. To help address workforce availability the Department has identified that this team member may be available remotely.

Comment: One commenter strongly supports the proposed state plan amendment and expressed that expanding services is a positive change for Medicaid enrollees with behavioral health needs.

Department Response: Thank you for your comment.

Further comment: Two commenters stated the final paragraph on Mobile Crisis and Response is redundant and should be eliminated.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has revised this paragraph to remove redundant language.

Comment: Once commenter recommended adding the verbiage “unless a formal exception has been granted by MST Services, LLC” to the requirement that the MST team must include at a minimum two-thirds master level staff and not exceed more than one-third bachelor level staff.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: The same commenter indicated some revisions are needed to align with National Best Practice and the Children, Youth and Families Department’s (CYFD’s) programs. The commenter recommended adding a supervisor who is a master’s level independently licensed behavioral health professional to the list of MST team staff.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: A recommendation was made to add the language “or an MST trained master’s level licensed behavioral health professional working in and agency with access to an independently licensed supervisor supporting the team” to the clinical supervision requirement.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: The same commenter suggested updating the language for the definitions of Family Peer Support Services (FPSS), Youth Peer Support Services (YPSS) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to provide a better description and purpose of each service.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: A recommendation was made to add the language: “An alternative New Mexico qualification as determined by the State of New Mexico is also acceptable” in the sections on Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing and Dialectical Behavior Therapy to remove ambiguity.

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.

Further comment: The same commenter recommended adding language to specify the required components of comprehensive Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT).

Department Response: The Department agrees and has incorporated the suggested changes.