

**Charter for  
Commercial Carriers & County Mental Health Programs Workgroup  
4/4/2022**

**Problem Statement:**

In today's system of care, the service array is not equitable for all children, youth, young adults, and their families due to payment structure constraints and variations on eligibility to access certain services.

- CMHPs provide a variety of community-based services for youth and families, and these are sometimes not accessible for youth/families with commercial insurance, unless there is a publicly funded insurance-neutral project.
- Some commercial insurers are willing to pay for these services; however, there are structural barriers to a viable and consistent pathway for reimbursement/billing between CMHPs and all Commercial Insurers.

**Purpose:**

To increase usage and improve access and quality of community-based services and supports available to all youth and families (regardless of payer) when in immediate need.

To remove payment barriers by identifying or creating pathways for payment of services provided by CMHPs (a) from commercial insurers and (b) open card funders.

To operationally improve connections between providers and payers (ie CMHPs, OHP/CCO and commercial insurers).

**Vision:**

- Every Oregon child or youth and their family experiencing an immediate need will have access to responsive and effective community-based, rapidly-accessible mental health care and transitional supports.
- Reliable and equitable funding from public and private payers will ensure the ongoing viability of access for all youth and their families in need of immediate mental health services and supports.

**Relevant Programs Include:**

- CATS
- IIBHT and other intensive outpatient services
- School-based Mental Health
- EASA
- ACT
- MRSS—both MRSS itself and transitions to ongoing care

**Scope:**

This is a problem-solving group. All ideas with the potential to improve access and remove payment barriers between commercial insurers and community-based agencies are in scope. While the group has a specific focus on children and families, services for adults are also in scope provided they do not detract from the mission of improving care for children and families.

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The group (or subgroups) may choose to focus on a specific service or set of services at times; or may approach its tasks from a more global perspective.

**Group membership:**

All stakeholders interested in furthering the work of this meeting are invited to participate as members. This includes but is not limited to representatives from CMHPs, community agencies, OHA staff, commercial carriers, peer organizations. The group intentionally seeks input from multiple perspectives: youth/family, providers, payers. Members are encouraged to attend as frequently as they can in order to maintain continuity.

**Meetings:**

The group meets the first Monday of each month from 3-4 pm unless otherwise arranged & announced. Subgroups may meet more frequently to work on specific issues.