



PROVIDER ALERT

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Update for Providers

September 8, 2017

The State of Idaho is in the process of designing and implementing a new children's mental health system of care for children and youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) called YES - Youth Empowerment Services. The YES project has been authorized by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) as part of the settlement agreement resulting from the Jeff D. class action lawsuit. The YES system of care will provide a new way for families to access mental health services for their children, will be strengths-based, family-centered, and will incorporate a new collaborative team approach that focuses on providing individualized care for children.

Implementation for the YES project began in 2015 and will continue over a period of seven (7) years. The YES system of care will improve the quality of care, accessibility of services and outcomes for children served by offering a comprehensive array of services and supports to address the needs of children and youth with SED. Through a coordinated and collaborative effort, multiple child-serving agencies such as family medical and behavioral health providers, Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Corrections and Health and Welfare will work with the family to build a treatment plan around the unique needs and strengths of each child who is defined as a YES Class Member. A YES Class Member is defined as an Idaho resident who has a serious emotional disturbance (SED), is under the age of eighteen (18), has a diagnosable mental health disorder based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), and has a substantial functional impairment determined by Idaho's new assessment tool, the Child and Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS).

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Division of Behavioral Health have developed a YES website for the purpose of providing general information about the YES system of care and project at yes.idaho.gov.

Your Feedback is Important!

Optum Idaho and the Optum Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) are committed to listening and supporting our valued provider network community throughout this significant change to ensure you have the resources, information, and training to successfully transition to work with children and adolescents who may be provided outpatient behavioral health services as part of the new YES system of care.

Optum recognizes that working to inform and empower our network providers to be successful is an important partnership. This Provider Alert will be the first in a series of communications and provider feedback surveys on the YES project to establish a baseline of overall knowledge of YES and identify target areas for communication and education moving forward.

Please click on the survey link [YES Survey](#) and provide your anonymous feedback and comments. The survey will close on September 29, 2017.