

CHAPTER 25
DISABILITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT
PREAMBLE

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

This chapter provides for definitions of regional core services; access standards; implementation dates; practice standards; reporting of regional expenditures; development and submission of regional management plans; data collection; applications for funding as they relate to regional service systems for adults with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, or brain injury and children with a serious emotional disturbance.

[ARC 0576C, IAB 2/6/13, effective 1/8/13; ARC 0735C, IAB 5/15/13, effective 8/1/13; ARC 1096C, IAB 10/16/13, effective 11/20/13; ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 1671C, IAB 10/15/14, effective 9/25/14; ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

DIVISION I
REGIONAL SERVICES

441—25.1(225C) Definitions.

“Access center” means the coordinated provision of intake assessment, screening for multi-occurring conditions, care coordination, crisis stabilization residential services, subacute mental health services, and substance abuse treatment for individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis who do not need inpatient psychiatric hospital treatment, but who do need significant amounts of supports and services not available in other home- and community-based settings.

“Adult” means the same as defined in 441—subrule 78.27(1).

“Assertive community treatment” or *“ACT”* means a program of comprehensive outpatient services consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, provided in the community and directed toward the amelioration of symptoms and the rehabilitation of behavioral, functional, and social deficits of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness and individuals with complex symptomology who require multiple mental health and supportive services to live in the community.

“Assessment and evaluation” means the clinical review by a mental health professional of the current functioning of the individual using the service in regard to the individual’s situation, needs, strengths, abilities, desires and goals to determine the appropriate level of care.

“Behavioral health inpatient treatment” or *“mental health inpatient treatment”* means inpatient psychiatric services to treat an acute psychiatric condition provided in a licensed hospital with a psychiatric unit or a licensed freestanding psychiatric hospital.

“Behavioral health outpatient therapy” means the same as “outpatient services” described in Iowa Code section 230A.106(2)“a.”

“Brain injury” means the same as defined in rule 441—83.81(249A).

“Care coordination” means facilitating communication and ensuring provision of services among multiple professionals and service providers, the individual, and family members or other natural supports when designated by the individual, and ensuring the individual has the information necessary to actively participate in service and discharge or transition planning.

“Case management” means service provided by a case manager who assists individuals in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services through assessment, development of a care plan, referral, monitoring and follow-up using a strengths-based service approach that helps individuals achieve specific desired outcomes leading to a healthy self-reliance and interdependence with their community.

“Case manager” means a person who has completed specified and required training to provide case management through the medical assistance program.

“Child” or “children” means a person or persons under 18 years of age.

“Children’s behavioral health services” means behavioral health services for children who have a diagnosis of serious emotional disturbance.

“Children’s behavioral health system” or “children’s system” means the behavioral health system for children implemented pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 225C.

“Comprehensive assessment” means the same as “crisis assessment” defined in rule 441—24.20(225C) for individuals being referred to crisis stabilization residential services and means the same as “assessment” defined in rule 481—71.2(135G) for individuals being referred to subacute mental health services.

“Crisis assessment” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Crisis care coordination” means a service provided during an acute crisis episode that facilitates working together to organize a plan and service transition programing, including working agreements with inpatient behavioral health units and other community programs. The service shall include referrals to mental health services and other supports necessary to maintain community-based living capacity, including case management as defined herein.

“Crisis evaluation” means the process used with an individual to collect information related to the individual’s history and needs, strengths, and abilities in order to determine appropriate services or referral during an acute crisis episode.

“Crisis intervention plan” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.1(225C).

“Crisis screening” means a brief assessment to make a determination of the presenting problem and referral to the appropriate level of care.

“Crisis stabilization community-based services” or “CSCBS” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Crisis stabilization residential services” or “CSRS” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Day habilitation” means services that assist or support the individual in developing or maintaining life skills and community integration. Services shall enable or enhance the individual’s functioning, physical and emotional health and development, language and communication development, cognitive functioning, socialization and community integration, functional skill development, behavior management, responsibility and self-direction, daily living activities, self-advocacy skills, or mobility.

“Early identification” means the process of detecting developmental delays, mental illness, or untreated conditions that may indicate the need for further evaluation.

“Early intervention” means services designed to address the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children at their earliest stages to decrease long-term effects and provide support in meeting developmental milestones.

“Education services” means activities that increase awareness and understanding of the causes and nature of conditions or factors which affect an individual’s development and functioning.

“Emergency services” means the same as defined in 441—subrule 24.4(15).

“Emergency detention” means the same as “immediately detained” as described in Iowa Code section 229.22(1).

“Evidence-based services” or “evidence-based practices” means using interventions that have been rigorously tested; have yielded consistent, replicable results; and have proven safe, beneficial and effective and have established standards for fidelity of the practice.

“Face-to-face” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Family psychoeducation” means services including the provision of emotional support, education, resources during periods of crisis, and problem-solving skills consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Family support” means services provided by a family support peer specialist that assist the family of an individual to live successfully in the family or community including, but not limited to, education and information, individual advocacy, family support groups, and crisis response.

“Family support peer specialist” means a parent, primary caregiver, foster parent or family member of an individual who has successfully completed standardized training to provide family support through the medical assistance program.

“Group supported employment” means the job and training activities in business and industry settings for groups of no more than eight workers with disabilities. Group settings include enclaves, mobile crews, and other business-based workgroups employing small groups of workers with disabilities in integrated, sustained, paid employment.

“HCBS” means home- and community-based services as defined in rule 441—78.27(249A).

“Health homes” means a service model that facilitates access to an interdisciplinary array of medical care, behavioral health care, and community-based social services and supports for both children and adults with chronic conditions. Services may include comprehensive care management; care coordination and health promotion; comprehensive transitional care from inpatient to other settings, including appropriate follow-up; individual and family support, which includes authorized representatives; referral to community and social support services, if relevant; and the use of health information technology to link services, as feasible and appropriate.

“Home and vehicle modification” means a service that provides physical modifications to the home or vehicle that directly address the medical health or remedial needs of the individual and that are necessary to provide for the health, welfare, and safety of the individual and to increase or maintain independence.

“Home health aide services” means unskilled medical services which provide direct personal care. This service may include assistance with activities of daily living, such as helping the recipient to bathe, get in and out of bed, care for hair and teeth, exercise, and take medications specifically ordered by the physician.

“Homeless” means the same as “homeless person” as defined in Iowa Code section 48A.2.

“Illness management and recovery” means a broad set of strategies designed to help individuals with serious mental illness collaborate with professionals, reduce the individuals’ susceptibility to the illness, and cope effectively with the individuals’ symptoms consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Individual” means any person seeking or receiving services in a regional service system.

“Individual supported employment” means services including ongoing supports needed by an individual to acquire and maintain a job in the integrated workforce at or above the state’s minimum wage. The outcome of this service is sustained paid employment that meets personal and career goals.

“Intake assessment” means the process used with an individual to collect information related to the individual’s history, needs, strengths, and abilities for the purpose of determining the individual’s need for comprehensive assessment, appropriate services or referral.

“Integrated treatment for co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders” means effective dual diagnosis programs that combine mental health and substance abuse interventions tailored for the complex needs of individuals with co-morbid disorders. Critical components of effective programs include a comprehensive, long-term, staged approach to recovery; assertive outreach; motivational interviews; provision of help to individuals in acquiring skills and supports to manage both illnesses and pursue functional goals with cultural sensitivity and competence consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Intensive residential service homes” or *“intensive residential services”* means intensive, community-based services provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness who have functional impairments and may also have multi-occurring conditions. Providers of intensive residential service homes are enrolled with Medicaid as providers of HCBS habilitation or HCBS intellectual disability waiver supported community living and meet additional criteria specified in subrule 25.6(8).

“Job development” means services that assist individuals in preparing for, securing and maintaining gainful, competitive employment. Employment shall be integrated into normalized work settings, shall provide pay of at least minimum wage, and shall be based on the individual’s skills, preferences, abilities, and talents. Services assist individuals seeking employment to develop or re-establish skills, attitudes, personal characteristics, interpersonal skills, work behaviors, and functional capacities to achieve positive employment outcomes.

“Medical assistance program” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 249A.2.

“Medication management” means services provided directly to or on behalf of the individual by a licensed professional as authorized by Iowa law including, but not limited to, monitoring effectiveness of

and compliance with a medication regimen; coordination with care providers; investigating potentially negative or unintended psychopharmacologic or medical interactions; reviewing laboratory reports; and activities pursuant to licensed prescriber orders.

“Medication prescribing” means services with the individual present provided by an appropriately licensed professional as authorized by Iowa law including, but not limited to, determining how the medication is affecting the individual; determining any drug interactions or adverse drug effects on the individual; determining the proper dosage level; and prescribing medication for the individual for the period of time before the individual is seen again.

“Mental health inpatient treatment” or *“behavioral health inpatient treatment”* means inpatient psychiatric services to treat an acute psychiatric condition that are provided in a licensed hospital with a psychiatric unit or a licensed freestanding psychiatric hospital.

“Mental health outpatient therapy” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 230A.106(2) “a.”

“Mental health professional” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 228.1(7).

“Mobile response” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Multi-occurring conditions” means a diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness occurring along with one or more of the following: a physical health condition, a substance use disorder, an intellectual or developmental disability, or a brain injury.

“No reject, no eject” means that an individual who otherwise meets the eligibility criteria for a service shall not be denied access to that service or discharged from that service based on the severity or complexity of that individual’s mental health and multi-occurring needs.

“Outpatient competency restoration” means a community-based service to restore competency for individuals found by a court not to pose a danger to the public but to be incompetent to stand trial. The service includes components such as psychiatric prescribing and medication management, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, competency education, and service coordination.

“Peer support services” means a program provided by a peer support specialist including but not limited to education and information, individual advocacy, family support groups, crisis response, and respite to assist individuals in achieving stability in the community.

“Peer support specialist” means an individual who has experienced a severe and persistent mental illness and who has successfully completed standardized training to provide peer support services through the medical assistance program.

“Permanent supportive housing” means voluntary, flexible supports to help individuals with psychiatric disabilities choose, get, and keep housing that is decent, safe, affordable, and integrated into the community. Tenants have access to an array of services that help them keep their housing, such as case management, assistance with daily activities, conflict resolution, and crisis response consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Personal emergency response system” means an electronic device connected to a 24-hour staffed system which allows the individual to access assistance in the event of an emergency.

“Precariously housed” means that a person does not have a permanent household and is living day-to-day in a motel, in a vehicle, with family or friends, or in some other temporary location.

“Prescreening assessment” means a face-to-face clinical interview to ascertain an individual’s current and previous level of functioning, potential for dangerousness, physical health, and psychiatric and medical condition.

“Prevention” means efforts to increase awareness and understanding of the causes and nature of conditions or situations which affect an individual’s functioning in society. Prevention activities are designed to convey information about the cause of conditions, situations, or problems that interfere with an individual’s functioning or ways in which that information can be used to prevent their occurrence or reduce their effect and may include, but are not limited to, training events, webinars, presentations, and public meetings.

“Prevocational services” means services that focus on developing generalized skills that prepare an individual for employment. Prevocational training topics include but are not limited to attendance, safety skills, following directions, and staying on task.

“Reasonably close proximity” means a distance of 100 miles or less or a driving distance of two hours or less from the county seat or county seats of the region.

“Region” means a mental health and disability service region that operates as the “‘regional administrator’ or ‘regional administrative entity’” as defined in rule 441—25.11(225C).

“Respite” means a temporary period of relief and support for individuals and their families provided in a variety of settings. The intent is to provide a safe environment with staff assistance for individuals who lack an adequate support system to address current issues related to a disability. Respite may be provided for a defined period of time; respite is either planned or provided in response to a crisis.

“Routine care” means care which is not urgent or emergent in nature and can wait for a regularly scheduled appointment without risk to the individual. A condition requiring routine care is not likely to substantially worsen without immediate intervention.

“Rural” means any area that is not defined as urban.

“Serious emotional disturbance” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.2.

“Severe and persistent mental illness” or *“SPMI”* means a documented primary mental health disorder diagnosed by a mental health professional that causes symptoms and impairments in basic mental and behavioral processes that produce distress and major functional disability in adult role functioning inclusive of social, personal, family, educational or vocational roles. The individual has a degree of impairment arising from a psychiatric disorder such that: (1) the individual does not have the resources or skills necessary to maintain function in the home or community environment without assistance or support; (2) the individual’s judgment, impulse control, or cognitive perceptual abilities are compromised; (3) the individual exhibits significant impairment in social, interpersonal, or familial functioning; and (4) the individual has a documented mental health diagnosis. For this purpose, a “mental health diagnosis” means a disorder, dysfunction, or dysphoria diagnosed pursuant to the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association (published 2013, with all changes and updates approved by the American Psychiatric Association through September 2023 incorporated herein), excluding neurodevelopmental disorders, substance use disorders, personality disorders, medication-induced movement disorders and other adverse effects of medication, and other conditions that may be a focus of clinical attention as defined in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association (published 2013, with all changes and updates approved by the American Psychiatric Association through September 2023 incorporated herein).

“Subacute mental health services” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.6(4) “c” and includes both subacute facility-based services and subacute community-based services.

“Substance use disorder” means the same as defined in rule 641—155.1(125,135).

“Supported community living services” means services as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.21(1).

“Supported employment” means an approach to helping individuals participate as much as possible in competitive work in integrated work settings that are consistent with the strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice of the individuals. Services are targeted for individuals with significant disabilities for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred; or for whom competitive employment has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a significant disability including either individual or group supported employment, or both, consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Trauma-focused services” means services provided by caregivers and professionals that recognize when an individual who has been exposed to violence is in need of help to recover from adverse impacts; recognize and understand the impact that exposure to violence has on victims’ physical, psychological, and psychosocial development and well-being; and respond by helping in ways that reflect awareness of adverse impacts and consistently support the individual’s recovery.

“Trauma-informed care” means services that are based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities or triggers of those who have experienced violence, that recognize the role violence has played in the lives of those individuals, that are supportive of recovery, and that avoid retraumatization including trauma-focused services and trauma-specific treatment.

“Trauma-specific treatment” means services provided by a mental health professional using therapies that are free from the use of coercion, restraints, seclusion and isolation; and designed specifically to promote recovery from the adverse impacts of violence exposure on physical, psychological, psychosocial development, health and well-being.

“Twenty-four-hour crisis response” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Twenty-three-hour observation and holding” means the same as defined in rule 441—24.20(225C).

“Urban” means a county that has a total population of 50,000 or more residents or includes a city with a population of 20,000 or more.

“Urgent” means the existence of conditions that are not emergent in nature but that require expeditious treatment because of the prospect of the condition worsening without immediate intervention.

“Warm handoff” means an approach to care transitions in which a health care provider uses face-to-face or telephone contact to directly link individuals being treated to other providers or specialists.

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441—25.2(225C) Core service domains.

25.2(1) The region shall ensure that core service domains are available in regions as determined in Iowa Code sections 225C.65 and 225C.66.

25.2(2) The region shall include and respect the recommendation of the individual and the individual’s care team in the process of transition to new services.

25.2(3) The region shall ensure that the following services are available for adults in the region:

- a. Access centers.
- b. Assertive community treatment.
- c. Assessment and evaluation.
- d. Case management.
- e. Crisis evaluation.
- f. Crisis stabilization community-based services.
- g. Crisis stabilization residential services.
- h. Day habilitation.
- i. Family support.
- j. Health homes.
- k. Home and vehicle modification.
- l. Home health aide.
- m. Intensive residential service homes.
- n. Job development.
- o. Medication prescribing and management.
- p. Mental health inpatient treatment.
- q. Mental health outpatient treatment.
- r. Mobile response.
- s. Outpatient competency restoration.
- t. Peer support.
- u. Personal emergency response system.
- v. Prevocational services.
- w. Respite.
- x. Subacute mental health services.
- y. Supported employment.
- z. Supportive community living.
- aa. Twenty-four-hour access to crisis response.
- bb. Twenty-three-hour crisis observation and holding.

Regions may fund or provide other services in addition to the required core services consistent with requirements set forth in subrules 25.2(5) and 25.2(6).

25.2(4) The region shall ensure that the following services are available for children in the region:

- a. Assessment and evaluation relating to eligibility for services.

- b. Behavioral health inpatient treatment.
- c. Behavioral health outpatient therapy.
- d. Crisis stabilization community-based services.
- e. Crisis stabilization residential services.
- f. Early identification.
- g. Early intervention.
- h. Education services.
- i. Medication prescribing and management.
- j. Mobile response.
- k. Outpatient competency restoration.
- l. Prevention.

25.2(5) A regional service system shall consider the scope of services included in addition to the required core services. Each service included shall be described and projection of need and the funding necessary to meet the need shall be included.

25.2(6) A regional service system may provide funding for other appropriate services or support. In considering whether to provide such funding, a region may consider the following criteria:

- a. Applying a person-centered planning process to identify the need for the services or other support.
- b. The efficacy of the services or other support is recognized as an evidence-based practice, is deemed to be an emerging and promising practice, or providing the services is part of a demonstration and will supply evidence as to the effectiveness of the services.
- c. A determination that the services or other support provides an effective alternative to existing services that have been shown by the evidence base to be ineffective, to not yield the desired outcome, or to not support the principles outlined in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581.

[ARC 1096C, IAB 10/16/13, effective 11/20/13; ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.3(331) Implementation dates. Rescinded ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23.

441—25.4(225C) Access standards. Regions shall meet the following access standards:

25.4(1) A sufficient provider network which shall include:

- a. A community mental health center or federally qualified health center that provides psychiatric and outpatient mental health services to individuals in the region.
- b. A hospital with an inpatient psychiatric unit or state mental health institute located in or within reasonably close proximity that has the capacity to provide inpatient services.

25.4(2) Crisis services shall be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year for individuals experiencing mental health and disability-related emergencies. A region may make arrangements with one or more other regions to meet the required access standards.

a. *Basic crisis response.*

(1) Twenty-four-hour crisis response. An individual shall have immediate access to crisis response services by means of telephone, electronic, or face-to-face communication.

(2) Crisis evaluation. An individual shall have immediate access to a crisis screening and will have a crisis assessment by a licensed mental health professional within 24 hours of referral.

b. *Crisis stabilization community-based services.* An individual who has been determined to need CSCBS shall receive face-to-face contact from the CSCBS provider within 120 minutes from the time of referral.

c. *Crisis stabilization residential services.* CSRS shall be located within 120 miles from the residence of the individual or be available within 120 minutes from the time of the determination that the individual needs CSRS.

d. *Mobile response.* An individual in need of mobile response services shall have face-to-face contact with mobile crisis staff within 60 minutes of dispatch.

e. *Twenty-three-hour observation and holding.* Twenty-three-hour observation and holding shall be located within 120 miles from the residence of the individual or be available within 120 minutes from the time of the determination that the individual needs 23-hour observation and holding.

25.4(3) The region shall provide the following treatment services:

a. Outpatient.

(1) Emergency services: During an emergency, outpatient services shall be initiated to an individual within 15 minutes of telephone contact.

(2) Urgent: Outpatient services shall be provided to an individual within 1 hour of presentation or 24 hours of telephone contact.

(3) Routine care: Outpatient services shall be provided to an individual within four weeks of request for appointment.

(4) Distance: Outpatient services shall be offered within 30 miles for an individual residing in an urban community and 45 miles for an individual residing in a rural community.

b. Inpatient.

(1) An individual in need of emergency inpatient services shall receive treatment within 24 hours.

(2) Inpatient services shall be available within reasonably close proximity to the region.

c. Assessment and evaluation. An individual who has received inpatient services shall be assessed and evaluated within four weeks.

25.4(4) Subacute facility-based mental health services. An adult shall receive subacute facility-based mental health services within 24 hours of referral. The service shall be located within 120 miles of the residence of the individual.

25.4(5) Support for community living for adults. The first appointment shall occur within four weeks of the individual's request of support for community living services, including a home health aide, home and vehicle modifications, respite, and supportive community living.

25.4(6) Support for employment for adults. The initial referral shall take place within 60 days of the individual's request of support for employment services, including day habilitation, job development, supported employment, and prevocational services.

25.4(7) Recovery services for adults. An individual receiving recovery services, including family support and peer support, shall not have to travel more than 30 miles if residing in an urban area or 45 miles if residing in a rural area to receive services.

25.4(8) Service coordination.

a. An adult receiving service coordination shall not have to travel more than 30 miles if residing in an urban area or 45 miles if residing in a rural area to receive services.

b. An adult shall receive service coordination within ten days of the initial request for such service or being discharged from an inpatient facility.

25.4(9) The region shall make the following intensive mental health services available for adults. A region may make arrangements with one or more other regions to meet the required access standards.

a. Assertive community treatment.

(1) A minimum of 22 ACT teams shall be operational statewide.

(2) A sufficient number of ACT teams shall be available to serve the number of individuals in the region who are eligible for ACT services. As a guideline for planning purposes, the ACT-eligible population is estimated to be about 0.06 percent of the adult population of the region. The region may identify multiple geographic areas within the region for ACT team coverage. Regions may work with one or more other regions to identify geographic areas for ACT team coverage.

b. Access centers.

(1) A minimum of six access centers shall be operational statewide.

(2) An access center shall be located within 120 miles of the residence of the individual or be available within 120 minutes from the time of the determination that the individual needs access center services.

c. Intensive residential services.

(1) A minimum of 120 intensive residential service beds shall be available statewide.

(2) An individual receiving intensive residential services shall have the service available within two hours of the individual's residence.

(3) An individual shall be admitted to intensive residential services within four weeks from referral.

25.4(10) The following limitations apply to home and vehicle modification for an individual receiving mental health and disability services:

a. A lifetime limit equal to that established for the home- and community-based services waiver for individuals with intellectual disabilities in the medical assistance program.

b. A provider reimbursement payment will be no lower than that provided through the home- and community-based services waiver for individuals with intellectual disabilities in the medical assistance program.

25.4(11) The region shall make the following efforts and activities related to children's behavioral health available to the residents of the region:

a. Prevention. Prevention activities shall be carried out at least four times a year.

b. Education services. Education activities shall be carried out at least four times a year.

25.4(12) The region shall ensure that the following behavioral health services are available to children in the region:

a. Early identification. A child shall receive early identification services within four weeks of the time the request for such services is made.

b. Early intervention. A child shall receive early intervention services within four weeks of the time the request for such services is made.

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441—25.5(225C) Practices. A region shall ensure that access is available to providers of core services that demonstrate the following competencies:

25.5(1) Regions shall have service providers that are trained to provide effective services to individuals with multi-occurring conditions. Training for serving individuals with multi-occurring conditions provided by the region shall be training identified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center or other generally recognized professional organization specified in the regional service system management plan.

25.5(2) Regions shall have service providers that are trained to provide effective trauma-informed care. Trauma-informed care training provided by the region shall be recognized by the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care or other generally recognized professional organization specified in the regional service system management plan.

25.5(3) Regions must have evidence-based practices that the region has independently verified as meeting established fidelity to evidence-based practice models including, but not limited to, assertive community treatment; integrated treatment for co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders; supported employment; family psychoeducation; illness management and recovery; and permanent supportive housing.

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441—25.6(225C) Intensive mental health services. The purpose of intensive mental health services is to provide a continuum of services and supports to adults with complex mental health and multi-occurring conditions who need a high level of intensive and specialized support to attain stability in health, housing, and employment and to work toward recovery.

25.6(1) *Access centers.* The purpose of an access center is to serve adults experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis who are not in need of an inpatient psychiatric level of care and who do not have alternative, safe, effective services immediately available.

a. Regional coordination. Each region shall designate at least one access center provider and ensure that access center services are available to the residents of the region consistent with subrule 25.4(9).

(1) Regions shall work collaboratively to develop a minimum of six access centers strategically located throughout the state, with the support of the medical assistance program.

(2) Access centers may be shared by two or more regions.

(3) Each region shall establish methods to provide for reimbursement of a region when a non-Medicaid-eligible resident of another region utilizes an access center or other non-Medicaid-covered services located in that region.

b. Access center standards. A designated access center shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) An access center shall have no residential facility-based setting with more than 16 beds.

(2) An access center provider shall be accredited to provide crisis stabilization residential services pursuant to 441—Chapter 24.

(3) An access center provider shall be licensed to provide subacute mental health services as described in rule 441—77.56(249A).

(4) An access center provider shall be licensed as a substance abuse treatment program pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 125 or have a cooperative agreement with and immediate access to licensed substance abuse treatment services or medical care that incorporates withdrawal management.

(5) An access center shall provide services on a no reject, no eject basis to individuals who meet service eligibility criteria.

(6) An access center shall accept and serve eligible individuals who are court-ordered to participate in mental health or substance use disorder treatment.

(7) An access center shall provide all required services listed in 25.6(1)“d” in a coordinated manner. An access center may provide coordinated services in one or more locations.

c. Eligibility for access center services. To be eligible to receive access center services, an individual shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) The individual is an adult in need of screening, assessment, services or treatment related to a mental health or substance use crisis.

(2) The individual shows no obvious signs of illness or injury indicating a need for immediate medical attention.

(3) The individual has not been determined to need acute inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

d. Access center services. An access center shall provide or arrange for the provision of all of the following:

(1) Immediate intake assessment and screening that includes but is not limited to mental and physical health conditions, suicide risk, brain injury, and substance use. A crisis evaluation that includes all required screenings may serve as an intake assessment.

(2) Comprehensive person-centered mental health assessments by appropriately licensed or credentialed professionals, as indicated by the intake assessment.

(3) Comprehensive person-centered substance use disorder assessments by appropriately licensed or credentialed professionals, as indicated by the intake assessment.

(4) Peer support services, as indicated by a comprehensive assessment.

(5) Mental health treatment, as indicated by a comprehensive assessment.

(6) Substance use treatment, as indicated by a comprehensive assessment.

(7) Physical health care services as indicated by a health screening.

(8) Care coordination.

(9) Service navigation and linkage to needed services including housing, employment, shelter services, intellectual and developmental disability services, and brain injury services, with warm handoffs to other service providers.

25.6(2) *Assertive community treatment (ACT) services.* The purpose of assertive community treatment is to serve adults with the most severe and persistent mental illness conditions and functional impairments. ACT services provide a set of comprehensive, integrated, intensive outpatient services delivered by a multidisciplinary team under the supervision of a psychiatrist, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant under the supervision of a psychiatrist. An ACT program shall designate a staff member to be responsible for administration of the program and with the authority to sign documents and receive payments on behalf of the program.

a. Regional coordination. Each region shall designate at least one ACT provider and ensure that ACT services are available to the residents of the region consistent with subrule 25.4(9). Regions may work collaboratively with other regions when an ACT team is serving more than one region.

(1) Each region shall determine the number and size of ACT teams needed to serve the ACT-eligible population in that region.

(2) Each region shall verify that all ACT programs operating in the region have periodic fidelity reviews consistent with evidence-based practice standards published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Each ACT program shall have a fidelity review, including a peer review, on the following schedule:

1. Within the first 12 months of operation.
2. Annually during each of the second and third years of operation.
3. Biennially thereafter for teams with satisfactory fidelity reviews. Teams with unsatisfactory reviews shall be reviewed again after one year.

Results of the ACT team fidelity reviews shall be included in the region's annual report.

b. *ACT team composition.* Each ACT team shall include a minimum of six members and must include a member qualified to fill each of the eight following roles. One team member may fill more than one role if all other qualifications are met.

(1) A psychiatrist, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant under the supervision of a psychiatrist who is board-certified or eligible for board certification.

- (2) A team leader.
- (3) A registered nurse.
- (4) A mental health professional.
- (5) A substance abuse treatment provider.
- (6) A community support specialist.
- (7) A peer support specialist.
- (8) An employment specialist.

c. *Staff qualifications.* ACT team members shall meet the following qualifications:

(1) Psychiatrist. A psychiatrist on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or a doctor of osteopathy (D.O.).
2. Is licensed in Iowa pursuant to 653—Chapter 9.
3. Is certified or is eligible to be certified as a psychiatrist by the American Board of Medical Specialties' Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or by the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.

4. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.
5. Provides a minimum of 16 hours per week of psychiatrist time for every 50 ACT clients.

(2) Advanced registered nurse practitioner. An advanced registered nurse practitioner on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is licensed pursuant to 655—Chapter 7.
2. Has a mental health certification.
3. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.
4. Provides a minimum of 16 hours per week of advanced registered nurse practitioner time for every 50 ACT clients.

(3) Physician assistant. A physician assistant on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is licensed pursuant to 645—Chapter 326.
2. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.
3. Is practicing under the supervision of a psychiatrist who is board-certified or eligible for board certification.

4. Provides a minimum of 16 hours per week of physician assistant time for every 50 ACT clients.

(4) Team leader. A team leader shall be a person on the team who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Has a master's degree in a mental health field, including but not limited to nursing, social work, mental health counseling, psychiatric rehabilitation, or psychology.
2. Is actively involved in direct contact with individuals being served by the team.
3. Is a full-time staff member whose responsibilities are limited to the ACT team and who serves as the clinical and administrative supervisor of the team.

(5) Registered nurse. A registered nurse on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is licensed as a registered nurse pursuant to 655—Chapter 3.
2. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

(6) Mental health professional. A mental health professional on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is a mental health counselor or marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to 645—Chapter 31; a social worker licensed as a master or independent social worker pursuant to 645—Chapter 280; or an occupational therapist licensed pursuant to 645—Chapter 206.

2. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

(7) Substance abuse treatment professional. A substance abuse treatment professional on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is an appropriately credentialed counselor pursuant to 641—subparagraph 155.21(8) “b”(1).
2. Has at least three years of experience working with persons with substance use disorders.

(8) Community support specialist. A community support specialist on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Has a bachelor’s degree with at least 30 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours in a human services field, including but not limited to sociology, social work, counseling, psychology, or human services.

2. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

(9) Peer support specialist. A peer support specialist on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Has been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness.
2. Has met all requirements of the Appalachian Consulting Group Peer Support Training Model by no later than six months after the date of hire.

(10) Employment specialist. An employment specialist on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Has experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness.
2. Meets one of the following:
 - Has a bachelor’s degree with at least 30 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours in a human services field, including but not limited to sociology, social work, counseling, or psychology, and completes at least 12 hours of employment services training within six months of the date of hire.
 - Has a high school diploma or equivalent, has at least one year of specialized vocational training or supervised experience in vocational and related services, including but not limited to supported employment, job coaching, supported community living, or habilitation, and completes at least 12 hours of employment services training within six months of the date of hire.

(11) Psychologist. A psychologist on the team shall be a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is licensed pursuant to 645—Chapter 240.
2. Has experience working with persons with a severe and persistent mental illness.

d. *ACT provider standards.* Organizations seeking regional designation as an ACT provider shall meet the following criteria at initial application and annually thereafter. A designated ACT provider shall:

- (1) Develop and maintain written ACT-specific admission policies and procedures, including but not limited to a gradual rate of admission and program eligibility requirements.

- (2) Develop and maintain written ACT-specific discharge policies and procedures. Discharge criteria shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. An individual reaches individually established goals for discharge, and the individual and program staff mutually agree to the termination of services; or

2. An individual requests discharge, demonstrates the ability to function in all major role areas without ongoing assistance from the program and without significant relapse when services are withdrawn, and the program staff agree to the termination of services; or

3. An individual moves outside the geographic area of the team’s responsibility. In such cases, the team shall arrange for transfer of responsibility for mental health services to an ACT program or another

provider wherever the individual is relocating, and the team shall maintain contact with the individual until the service transfer is implemented; or

4. An individual declines or refuses services and requests discharge despite the team's best efforts to develop an acceptable treatment plan with the individual.

(3) Documentation of discharges. Documentation shall include:

1. The reason(s) for discharge as stated by both the individual and the team.

2. A summary of the individual's biopsychosocial status at the time of discharge.

3. A written final evaluation summary of the individual's progress toward the goals in the treatment plan.

4. A plan developed in conjunction with the individual for follow-up treatment after discharge.

5. The signature of each of the following:

- The individual, or documentation of why the individual's signature was not obtained.

- The service coordinator.

- The team leader.

- The psychiatrist, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant under the supervision of a board-certified psychiatrist.

e. *ACT team standards.* All designated ACT teams shall:

(1) Participate in all of the individual's mental health services.

(2) Ensure that services for the psychiatric needs of the individual are available 24 hours a day.

(3) Develop a specific treatment plan based on the assessment of needs and including goals and actions to address the individual's medical, social, educational, and other needs.

(4) Make referrals to services and related activities to assist the individual with the individual's assessed needs.

(5) Monitor and perform follow-up activities necessary to ensure that the treatment plan is carried out and that the individual has access to necessary services. Activities may include monitoring contacts with providers, family members, natural supports, and others.

(6) Hold team meetings at least four times a week to facilitate ACT services and briefly review the status of the individual with other members of the team.

(7) Have the capacity to provide multiple contacts a week with individuals experiencing severe symptoms, trying a new medication, experiencing a health problem or serious life event, trying to go back to school or starting a new job, making changes in a living situation or employment, or having significant ongoing problems in daily living. All members of the team share responsibility for addressing the needs of all individuals. The number of team contacts per individual served shall average at least three per week per individual when calculated across all individuals served by the team. Contacts may be weekly, daily, or more frequent. The frequency of contacts is determined by the needs of the individual.

(8) Have the capacity to rapidly increase service intensity to an individual when the individual's status requires it or the individual requests it.

(9) Ensure that treatment, rehabilitation, and support activities are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including nights, weekends, and holidays. If there are insufficient numbers of staff to operate an after-hours on-call system, staff shall provide crisis response during regular work hours and arrange coverage for all other hours through a reliable crisis response service.

(10) Provide no more than 20 percent of service contacts in office-based settings.

f. *Staff-to-client ratio.* ACT teams shall maintain a ratio of at least one full-time or full-time equivalent staff person to every ten individuals served. The ACT team staff-to-client ratios do not include the psychiatrist, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician assistant practicing under the supervision of a psychiatrist.

g. *Eligibility criteria for ACT services.* To be eligible to receive ACT services, the individual shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Is at least 17 years of age.

(2) Has a severe and persistent mental illness or complex mental health symptomology. Individuals with a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder, developmental disability, personality disorder, or organic disorder are not eligible for ACT services.

(3) Is in need of a consistent team of professionals and multiple mental health and support services to live independently in the community and reduce hospitalizations, as evidenced by one or both of the following:

1. A pattern of repeated treatment failures during the previous 12 months, including at least two psychiatric hospitalizations or psychiatric care delivered at least twice in an emergency department, at an access center, or by a mobile crisis team; or

2. The need for multiple or combined mental health and basic living supports to prevent the need for a more intrusive level of care.

(4) Presents a reasonable likelihood that ACT services will lead to specific, observable improvements in the individual's functioning and assist the individual in achieving or maintaining independent community living. Specifically, the individual:

1. Is medically stable;
2. Does not require a level of care that includes more intensive medical monitoring;
3. Presents a low risk to self, others, or property, with treatment and support; and
4. Lives independently in the community or demonstrates a capacity and desire to live independently in the community.

h. ACT services. ACT teams shall provide the following services:

- (1) Initial assessment and treatment planning.

1. An assessment of the individual shall be completed within 30 days of admission that includes psychiatric history, medical history, educational history, employment, substance use, problems with activities of daily living, social interests, and family relationships.

2. An individualized written treatment plan shall be developed based on the assessment. The treatment plan shall identify the necessary psychiatric rehabilitation treatment and support services, including all of the following:

- Treatment objectives and outcomes.
- The expected frequency and duration of each service.
- The location where the services will be provided.
- A crisis plan.
- The schedule for updates of the treatment plan.

- (2) Evaluation and medication management.

1. The evaluation portion of ACT services consists of a comprehensive mental health evaluation and assessment of the individual by a psychiatrist, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

2. Medication management consists of the prescription and management of medication by a psychiatrist, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant in response to the individual's complaints and symptoms. A psychiatric registered nurse assists in this management by making contact with the individual regarding medications and their effect on the individual's complaints and symptoms.

- (3) Integrated therapy and counseling for mental health and substance abuse. Integrated therapy and counseling consists of direct counseling for treatment of mental health and substance abuse symptoms by a psychiatrist, licensed mental health professional, advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or substance abuse specialist. Individual counseling may be provided by other team members under the supervision of a psychiatrist or licensed mental health practitioner.

- (4) Skill teaching. Skill teaching consists of side-by-side demonstration and observation of daily living activities by any team member.

- (5) Community support. Community support may be provided by any team member and consists of the following activities focused on recovery and rehabilitation:

1. Personal and home skills training to assist the individual to develop and maintain skills for self-direction and coping with the living situation.

2. Community skills training to assist the individual in maintaining a positive level of participation in the community through development of socialization skills and personal coping skills.

- (6) Medication monitoring. Medication monitoring services shall be provided by a psychiatric nurse and other team members under the supervision of a psychiatrist or psychiatric nurse and consists of:

1. Monitoring the individual's day-to-day functioning, medication compliance, and access to medications; and

2. Ensuring that the individual keeps appointments.

- (7) Case management for treatment and service plan coordination. Case management consists of the development of an individualized treatment and service plan, including personalized goals and outcomes, to address the individual's medical symptoms and remedial functional impairments. Case management includes:

1. Assessments, referrals, follow-up, and monitoring.

2. Assisting the individual in gaining access to necessary medical, social, educational, and other services.

3. Assessing the individual to determine service needs by collecting relevant historical information through records and other information from relevant professionals and natural supports.

- (8) Crisis response. Crisis response consists of direct assessment and treatment of the individual's urgent or crisis symptoms in the community by any team member, as appropriate.

- (9) Work-related services. Work-related services may be provided by any team member. Services consist of assisting the individual in managing mental health symptoms as they relate to job performance and may include:

1. Collaborating with the individual to look for job situations of the individual's choice and creating strategies to manage situations that cause symptoms to increase.

2. Assisting the individual to develop or enhance skills to obtain a work placement, such as individual work-related behavioral management.

3. Providing supports to maintain employment, such as crisis intervention related to employment.

4. Teaching communication, problem-solving, and safety skills.

5. Teaching personal skills, such as time management and appropriate grooming for employment.

- (10) Peer support services. Peer support services are provided by a peer support specialist and include, but are not limited to, education and information, individual advocacy, and crisis response.

- (11) Support services. All team members are responsible for providing support services. Services consist of assisting the individual in obtaining the basic necessities of daily life, including but not limited to:

1. Medical and dental services.

2. Safe, clean, and affordable housing.

3. Financial support.

4. Benefits counseling.

5. Social services.

6. Transportation.

7. Legal advocacy and representation.

- (12) Education, support, and consultation to family members and other major supports of individuals. All team members are responsible for providing education, support, and consultation to family members and other major supports of individuals with the agreement or consent of the individual. Services include but are not limited to:

1. Individualized psychoeducation about the individual's illness and the role of the family and other significant people in the therapeutic process.

2. Intervention to restore contact, resolve conflicts, and maintain relationships with family or other significant people or both.

3. Ongoing communication and collaboration, face-to-face and by telephone, between the ACT team and the family.

4. Introduction and referral to family self-help programs and advocacy organizations that promote recovery.

5. Assistance to obtain necessary services for individuals with children, including but not limited to:

- Individual supportive counseling.

- Parenting training.

- Service coordination.

- Services to help the individual throughout pregnancy and the birth of a child.
- Services to help the individual fulfill parenting responsibilities and coordinate services for the child or children.
- Services to help the individual restore relationships with children who are not in the individual's custody.

25.6(3) *Mobile response.* The purpose of mobile response is to provide short-term individualized crisis stabilization, following a crisis screening or assessment, that is designed to restore the individual to a prior functional level. Mobile response services shall be provided as described in rule 441—24.36(225C).

25.6(4) *23-hour observation and holding.* The purpose of 23-hour observation and holding is to provide up to 23 hours of care for adults in a safe and secure, medically staffed treatment environment. Twenty-three-hour observation and holding shall be provided as described in rule 441—24.37(225C).

25.6(5) *Crisis stabilization community-based services.* The purpose of crisis stabilization community-based services is to provide short-term services designed to de-escalate a crisis situation and stabilize an individual following a mental health crisis in the setting where the individual lives, works, or recreates. Crisis stabilization community-based services shall be provided as described in rule 441—24.38(225C).

25.6(6) *Crisis stabilization residential services.* The purpose of crisis stabilization residential services is to provide a short-term alternative living arrangement in a setting of no more than 16 beds that is designed to de-escalate a crisis situation and stabilize an individual following a mental health crisis. Crisis stabilization residential services shall be provided as described in rule 441—24.39(225C).

25.6(7) *Subacute mental health services.* The purpose of subacute mental health services is to provide a comprehensive set of wraparound services to adults who have had or are at imminent risk of having acute or crisis mental health symptoms.

a. Regional coordination. Each region shall designate at least one subacute mental health service provider and ensure that subacute mental health services are available to the residents of the region consistent with subrule 25.4(4).

b. Subacute mental health services standards.

(1) Subacute mental health services in a facility-based setting shall be provided as described in Iowa Code chapter 135G and 481—Chapter 71.

(2) Subacute mental health services in a community-based setting are the same as assertive community treatment (ACT) services provided as described in subrule 25.6(2).

25.6(8) *Intensive residential services.* The purpose of intensive residential services is to serve adults with the most intensive severe and persistent mental illness conditions who have functional impairments and may also have multi-occurring conditions. Intensive residential services provide intensive 24-hour supervision, behavioral health services, and other supportive services in a community-based residential setting.

a. Regional coordination. Each region shall designate at least one intensive residential services provider and ensure that intensive residential services are available to the residents of the region consistent with subrule 25.4(9).

(1) Regions shall work collaboratively to develop intensive residential services strategically located throughout the state with the capacity to serve a minimum of 120 individuals, with the support of the medical assistance program.

(2) Intensive residential services may be shared by two or more regions.

(3) Each region shall establish methods to provide for reimbursement of a region when the non-Medicaid-eligible resident of another region utilizes intensive residential services or other non-Medicaid-covered services located in that region.

(4) Regional reimbursement rates for non-Medicaid individuals receiving intensive residential services shall be negotiated by the region and the provider and shall be no less than the minimum Medicaid rate.

b. Intensive residential services standards. An organization that seeks regional designation as an intensive residential service provider shall meet the following criteria at initial application and annually thereafter. A designated intensive residential service provider shall:

(1) Be enrolled as an HCBS 1915(i) habilitation provider or an HCBS 1915(c) intellectual disability waiver supported community living provider and in good standing with Iowa Medicaid.

(2) Provide staffing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

(3) Maintain a minimum staffing ratio of one staff to every two and one-half residents. Staffing ratios shall be responsive to the needs of the individuals served.

(4) Ensure that all staff members have the following minimum qualifications:

1. One year of experience working with individuals with a mental illness or multi-occurring conditions.

2. A high school diploma or equivalent.

(5) Ensure that within the first year of employment, staff members complete 48 hours of competency-based training in mental health and multi-occurring conditions. During each consecutive year of employment, staff members shall complete 24 hours of competency-based training in mental health and multi-occurring conditions. Staff training shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Applied behavioral analysis.

2. Autism spectrum disorders, diagnoses, symptomology and treatment.

3. Brain injury diagnoses, symptomology and treatment.

4. Crisis management and de-escalation and mental health diagnoses, symptomology and treatment.

5. Motivational interviewing.

6. Psychiatric medications.

7. Substance use disorders and treatment.

8. Other diagnoses or conditions present in the population served.

(6) Provide coordination with the individual's clinical mental health and physical health treatment, and other services and supports.

(7) Provide clinical oversight by a mental health professional. The mental health professional shall review and consult on all behavioral health services provided to the individual, and any other plans developed for the individual, including but not limited to service plans, behavior intervention plans, crisis intervention plans, emergency plans, cognitive rehabilitation plans, or physical rehabilitation plans.

(8) Have a written cooperative agreement with an outpatient mental health provider and ensure that individuals have timely access to outpatient mental health services, including but not limited to ACT.

(9) Be licensed as a substance abuse treatment program pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 125 or have a written cooperative agreement with and timely access to licensed substance abuse treatment services for those individuals with a demonstrated need.

(10) Accept and serve eligible individuals who are court-ordered to intensive residential services.

(11) Provide services to eligible individuals on a no reject, no eject basis.

(12) If funded through HCBS and not licensed as a residential care facility, serve no more than five individuals at a site.

(13) Be located in a neighborhood setting to maximize community integration and natural supports.

(14) Demonstrate specialization in serving individuals with an SPMI or multi-occurring conditions and serve individuals with similar conditions in the same site.

c. Eligibility criteria for admission to intensive residential services. To be eligible to receive intensive residential services, an individual shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) The individual is an adult with a diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness or multi-occurring conditions.

(2) The individual has had a standardized functional assessment and screening for multi-occurring conditions completed 30 days or less prior to application for intensive residential services, and the functional assessment and screening demonstrates that the individual:

1. Has a diagnosis that meets the criteria of severe and persistent mental illness as defined in rule 441—25.1(225C);

2. Has three or more areas of significant impairment in activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living;

3. Is in need of 24-hour supervised and monitored treatment to maintain or improve functioning and avoid relapse that would require a higher level of treatment;

4. Has exhibited a lack of progress or regression after an adequate trial of active treatment at a less intensive level of care;
5. Is at risk of significant functional deterioration if intensive residential services are not received or continued; and
6. Meets one or more of the following:
 - Has a record of three or more psychiatric hospitalizations in the 12 months preceding application for intensive residential services.
 - Has a record of more than 30 medically unnecessary psychiatric hospital days in the 12 months preceding application for intensive residential services.
 - Has a record of more than 90 psychiatric hospital days in the 12 months preceding application for intensive residential services.
 - Has a record of three or more emergency room visits related to a psychiatric diagnosis in the 12 months preceding application for intensive residential services.
 - Is residing in a state resource center and has an SPMI.
 - Is being served out of state due to the unavailability of medically necessary services in Iowa.
 - Has an SPMI and is scheduled for release from a correctional facility or a county jail.
 - Is homeless or precariously housed.

[ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.7(225C) Non-core services. When a mental health and disability services region chooses to make the following non-core services available, the region shall ensure that such services meet the requirements of this rule.

25.7(1) Prescreening assessments. Prescreening assessments provided by the region or an entity contracting with the region shall meet the following requirements:

- a. The prescreening assessment shall be provided in an emergency room or other crisis assessment setting within four hours of an emergency detention of an individual believed to be mentally ill to determine if inpatient psychiatric hospitalization is necessary.
- b. The prescreening assessment shall be performed by a licensed physician or mental health professional who shall also provide ongoing consultations while the individual remains in the emergency room or other crisis assessment setting. The services provided by the consulting professional are intended to supplement, but do not replace, the services of the emergency room or other crisis setting staff.
- c. The licensed physician or mental health professional shall submit appropriate documentation and reports to the emergency room or other crisis setting and the court as necessary.
- d. The region or entity contracting with the region shall ensure the coordination of appropriate levels of care. Coordination may include but is not limited to:
 - (1) Securing an inpatient psychiatric bed when inpatient psychiatric hospitalization is needed.
 - (2) Utilizing community-based resources and services such as 23-hour observation and holding, crisis stabilization community-based or residential services, subacute facility-based mental health services or detoxification centers.
 - (3) Facilitating outpatient treatment appointments when inpatient psychiatric hospitalization is not needed.

25.7(2) Transportation. A service provider that is under contract with a region and transports individuals pursuant to an Iowa Code chapter 229 court order shall meet the following requirements:

- a. The transport vehicle shall be secure such that the individual being transported cannot open doors or windows of the vehicle while it is moving.
- b. Transportation staff shall complete a minimum of eight hours of training in mental health issues and crisis intervention in the first month of employment. After the initial training, each staff member shall complete a minimum of two hours of training annually.

[ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 225C.

441—25.8 to 25.10 Reserved.

DIVISION II
REGIONAL SERVICE SYSTEM

PREAMBLE

These rules define the standards for a regional service system. The mental health and disability services and children's behavioral health services shall be delivered in accordance with a regional service system management plan approved by the region's governing board and implemented by the regional administrator (Iowa Code section 225C.60). It is the intent of the Iowa general assembly that the adult residents of this state should have access to needed mental health and disability services and that Iowa children should have access to needed behavioral health services regardless of the location of their residence.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.11(225C) Definitions.

"Access point" means a provider, public or private institution, advocacy organization, legal representative, or educational institution with staff trained to complete applications and guide individuals with a disability to needed services.

"Assessment and evaluation" means the same as defined in rule 441—25.1(225C).

"Assistive technology account" means funds in contracts, savings, trust or other financial accounts, financial instruments, or other arrangements with a definite cash value that are set aside and designated for the purchase, lease, or acquisition of assistive technology, assistive technology services, or assistive technology devices. Assistive technology accounts must be held separately from other accounts. Funds must be used to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire assistive technology services or devices for a working individual with a disability. Any withdrawal from an assistive technology account other than for the designated purpose becomes a countable resource.

"Authorized representative" means a person designated by the individual or by Iowa law to act on the individual's behalf in specified affairs to the extent prescribed by law.

"Cash flow" means the same as "ending fund balance."

"Chief executive officer" means the person chosen and supervised by the governing board who serves as the single point of accountability for the mental health and disability services region and whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to, planning, budgeting, monitoring county and regional expenditures, and ensuring the delivery of quality services that achieve expected outcomes for the individuals served.

"Choice" means the individual or authorized representative chooses the services, supports, and goods needed to best meet the individual's goals and accepts the responsibility and consequences of those choices.

"Clear lines of accountability" means the structure of the governing board's organization makes it evident that the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the non-Medicaid-funded mental health and disability services lies with the governing board and that the governing board directly and solely supervises the organization's chief executive officer.

"Community" means an integrated setting of an individual's choice.

"Conflict-free case management" means there is no real or seeming incompatibility between the case manager's other interests and the case manager's duties to the individual served and includes case management separate from direct service provision; eligibility determination for services; establishment of funding levels for the individual's services; and requirements that prohibit the case manager from performing evaluations, assessments, and plans of care if the case manager is related by blood or marriage to the individual or any of the individual's paid caregivers or persons financially responsible for the individual or empowered to make financial or health-related decisions on behalf of the individual.

"Coordinator of children's behavioral health services" means a member of the regional administrative entity staff who meets the requirements described in Iowa Code section 225C.57(3)"b" and is responsible for coordinating behavioral health services for children.

“Coordinator of mental health and disability services” means a member of the regional administrative entity staff who meets the requirements described in Iowa Code section 225C.57(3)“b” and is responsible for coordinating mental health and disability services for adults.

“Countable household income” means earned and unearned income of the family of a child according to the modified adjusted gross income methodology.

“Countable resource” means real or personal property that has a cash value that is available to the owner upon disposition and is capable of being liquidated.

“Countable value” means the equity value of a resource, which is the current fair market value minus any legal debt on the item.

“County of residence” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.61.

“Department” means the department of health and human services.

“Director” means the director of health and human services.

“Disability services” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.2.

“Emergency services” means the same as defined in 441—subrule 24.4(15).

“Empowerment” means that the service system ensures the rights, dignity, and ability of individuals and their families to exercise choices, take risks, provide input, and accept responsibility.

“Encumbered” or *“encumbrances”* means regional commitments related to obligations or contracts as defined in subrule 25.13(6).

“Ending balance limitation” means the percentage limit allowable by state law that a region’s ending fund balance can exceed actual expenditures for the previous fiscal year.

“Ending balance threshold” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

“Ending fund balance” means the amount of residual funds remaining in a region’s combined account at the conclusion of a fiscal year after the region has met the financial obligations for implementation of its regional service system management plan.

“Exempt resource” means a resource that is disregarded in the determination of eligibility for public funding assistance and in the calculation of client participation amounts.

“Federal poverty level” means the most recently revised annual poverty income guidelines published in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

“Homeless person” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 48A.2.

“Household” means, for an individual who is 18 years of age or over, the individual, the individual’s spouse or domestic partner, and any children, stepchildren, or wards under the age of 18 who reside with the individual. For an individual under the age of 18, “household” means the individual, the individual’s parents (or parent and domestic partner), stepparents or guardians, and any children, stepchildren, or wards under the age of 18 of the individual’s parents (or parent and domestic partner), stepparents, or guardians who reside with the individual.

“Income” means all gross income received by the individual’s household, including but not limited to wages, income from self-employment, retirement benefits, disability benefits, dividends, annuities, public assistance, unemployment compensation, alimony, child support, investment income, rental income, and income from trust funds.

“Individual” means any person seeking or receiving services in a regional service system.

“Individualized services” means services and supports that are tailored to meet the personalized needs of the individual.

“Judicial system” means the same as described in Iowa Code section 602.1102.

“Law enforcement” or *“law enforcement representative”* means the same as “law enforcement officer” as defined in Iowa Code section 80B.3(3), or state and local correctional officers, and community-based corrections personnel.

“Liquid assets” means assets that can be converted to cash in 20 days. Liquid assets include but are not limited to cash on hand, checking accounts, savings accounts, stocks, bonds, cash value of life insurance, individual retirement accounts, certificates of deposit, and other investments.

“Managed care” means a system that provides the coordinated delivery of services and supports that are necessary and appropriate, delivered in the least restrictive settings and in the least intrusive manner.

Managed care seeks to balance three factors: achieving high-quality outcomes for participants, coordinating access, and containing costs.

“Managed system” means a system that integrates planning, administration, financing, and service delivery. The system consists of the financing or governing organization, the entity responsible for care management, and the network of service providers.

“Management organization” means an organization contracted to manage part or all of the service system for a region.

“Medical savings account” means an account that is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to Section 223 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. §223) (January 5, 2023) as supported by documentation provided by the bank or other financial institution. Any withdrawal from a medical savings account other than for the designated purpose becomes a countable resource.

“Mental health professional” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 228.1(7).

“Modified adjusted gross income” means the methodology prescribed in 42 U.S.C. Section 1396a(e) (14) and 42 CFR 435.603 (October 1, 2022).

“Non-liquid assets” means assets that cannot be converted to cash in 20 days. Non-liquid assets include, but are not limited to, real estate, motor vehicles, motor vessels, livestock, tools, machinery, and personal property.

“Population” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.55.

“Provider” means an individual, firm, corporation, association, or institution which is providing or has been approved to provide medical assistance, is accredited under 441—Chapter 24, holds a professional license to provide the service, is accredited by a national insurance panel, or holds other national accreditation or certification.

“Region incentive fund” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

“Regional administrator” or *“regional administrative entity”* means the administrative office or organization formed by agreement of the counties participating in a mental health and disability services region to function on behalf of those counties.

“Regional service growth factor” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

“Regional service fund” means the mental health and disability regional service fund created in Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

“Regional service system management plan” means the regional service system plan developed pursuant to Iowa Code section 225C.60 for the funding and administration of non-Medicaid-funded mental health and disability services and includes an annual service and budget plan, a policies and procedures manual, and an annual report and how the region will coordinate with the department in the provision of mental health and disability services funded under the medical assistance program.

“Resources” means all liquid and non-liquid assets that are owned in part or in whole by the individual household, that could be converted to cash to use for support and maintenance, and that the individual household is not legally restricted from using for support and maintenance.

“Retirement account” means any retirement or pension fund or account listed in Iowa Code section 627.6(8) “f.”

“Retirement account in the accumulation stage” means a retirement account into which a deposit was made in the previous tax year. Any withdrawal from a retirement account becomes a countable resource.

“Service system” refers to the mental health and disability services and supports administered by the regional administrative entity and paid from the regional services fund.

“State case status” means the standing of an individual who has no county of residence.

“State commission” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.5.

“System of care” means the coordination of a system of services and supports to individuals and their families that ensures they optimally live, work, and recreate in integrated communities of their choice.

“System principles” means practices that include individual choice, community and empowerment.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6008C, IAB 11/3/21, effective 10/4/21; ARC 6195C, IAB 2/9/22, effective 3/16/22; ARC 6237C, IAB 3/9/22, effective 5/1/22; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.12(225C) Regional governance structure. The counties comprising a mental health and disability services region shall enter into an agreement to form a regional administrator under the control of a governing board to function on behalf of those counties as defined in Iowa Code chapter 28E and sections 225C.55, 225C.57, 225C.59 and 225C.68.

25.12(1) Governing board. The governing board shall comply with the provisions of Iowa Code section 225C.57, Iowa Code chapter 69 and other applicable laws relating to boards and commissions, including but not limited to the following:

- a. The governing board shall include the following members:
 - (1) Board of supervisors members' counties comprising the region. Members representing boards of supervisors shall not exceed 49 percent of the total membership of the governing board.
 - (2) One adult person who utilizes mental health and disability services or is an actively involved relative of an adult who utilizes such services, designated by the regional adult mental health and disability services advisory committee.
 - (3) One member representing the education system in the region.
 - (4) One member who is a parent of a child who utilizes children's behavioral health services or is an actively involved relative of a child who utilizes such services.
 - (5) One member representing an adult service provider in the region, designated by the regional adult mental health and disability services advisory committee.
 - (6) One member representing a children's behavioral health service provider in the region, designated by the regional children's behavioral health services advisory committee.
 - (7) One member representing law enforcement in the region.
 - (8) One member representing the judicial system in the region.
- b. Each member of the governing board shall have one vote.
- c. The governing board shall create a regional adult mental health and disability services advisory committee, which shall designate members to the governing board as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.57(2).
- d. The governing board shall create a regional children's behavioral health services advisory committee, which shall designate members to the governing board as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.57(2).
- e. The governing board shall appoint and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer of the regional administrative entity who will serve as the single point of accountability for the region.

25.12(2) Regional administrator. The formation of the regional administrator shall be as defined in Iowa Code sections 225C.55, 225C.57, and 225C.68.

- a. The regional administrative entity is under the control of the governing board.
- b. The regional administrative entity shall enter into and manage performance-based contracts in accordance with Iowa Code section 225C.4(1) "x."
- c. The regional administrative entity structure shall have clear lines of accountability.
- d. The regional administrative entity functions as a lead agency.
- e. The regional administrative entity staff shall include one or more coordinators of mental health and disability services.
- f. The regional administrative entity staff shall include one or more coordinators of children's behavioral health services.

25.12(3) Regional service system management. The region may either directly implement a system of service management and contract with service providers, or contract with a private entity to manage the regional service system, provided all requirements of Iowa Code section 225C.60 are met by the private entity.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.13(225C) Regional finances.

25.13(1) Regional service payments. The department will distribute funds from the mental health and disability services regional service fund to regions in accordance with Iowa Code section 225C.7A. Funds will be distributed in July, October, January, and April.

25.13(2) *Funding.* Funding for non-Medicaid mental health and disability services and children's behavioral health services is under the control of the governing board and shall:

a. Be maintained to limit administrative burden and provide public transparency regarding financial processes.

b. Be maintained in a combined account.

c. Be used to fund services in accordance with the regional service system management plan and the performance-based contract.

d. Be maintained in a county mental health and disability services fund for the deposit of regional service payments for those counties exempted under Iowa Code section 225C.56. Expenditures to be made from the county mental health and disability services fund will not be made from any other fund of the county. The exempted county mental health and disability services fund is considered to be the same as a region combined account and is subject to the same requirements as a region combined account.

25.13(3) *Accounting system and financial reporting.* The accounting system and financial reporting to the department shall conform to Iowa Code section 225C.58 and include all non-Medicaid mental health and disability expenditures. Information shall be separated and identified in a uniform chart of accounts, including but not limited to the following: expenses for administration; purchase of services; and enterprise costs for which the region is a service provider or is directly billing and collecting payments.

25.13(4) *Ending fund balance.* Each region shall certify to the department of human services on or before December 1 the region's cash flow amount in the combined account at the conclusion of the most recently completed fiscal year.

a. A region must submit the ending fund balance on forms specified by the department.

b. The certified ending fund balance shall exclude encumbered amounts for which resources already have been committed and been approved by the department in accordance with subrule 25.13(7).

c. A certified submission must:

(1) Be approved by the region's governing board prior to submittal to the department.

(2) Be signed by the chairperson of the regional governing board and the regional chief executive officer.

25.13(5) *Ending balance limitations.*

a. A region's certified ending fund balance as determined in subrule 25.13(4) will not exceed a percentage of the region's actual expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. The ending balance limitations are as follows:

(1) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, the ending balance shall be no more than 40 percent of the actual expenditures of that year.

(2) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, the ending balance shall be no more than 20 percent of the actual expenditures of that year.

(3) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and each succeeding fiscal year thereafter, the ending balance shall be no more than 5 percent of the actual expenditures of that year.

b. If a region has an ending fund balance more than the limitation, the department will reduce the current fiscal year's remaining quarterly regional service payments equal to the excess ending fund balance amount.

c. If withholding a region's remaining quarterly payments does not sufficiently effectuate the required reduction, the region shall pay to the department any additional excess ending fund balance amount.

d. The amount of reductions to regional service payments and amounts paid to the department under paragraph 25.13(5) "c" shall be transferred and credited to the regional incentive fund.

25.13(6) *Acceptable encumbrances.* A region shall report to the department moneys for which a commitment is imposed and binding.

a. Financial obligations entered into by the region may be considered an acceptable encumbrance under the following circumstances:

(1) Existence of evidence as demonstrated by a contract or purchase order that details the services to be delivered and cost to the region.

(2) Entry of the region into executed contracts or binding commitments shall occur through formal action of the region's governing board.

b. Acceptable encumbrances shall be entered into and fulfilled according to the time frames outlined below:

(1) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, funds shall be obligated by the end of the fiscal year. Services shall be fully executed and moneys expended by June 30, 2023.

(2) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, funds shall be obligated by the end of the fiscal year. Services shall be fully executed and moneys expended by December 31, 2023.

(3) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and each succeeding fiscal year thereafter, funds shall be obligated by the end of the current fiscal year. Services shall be fully executed and moneys expended by August 31 of the subsequent fiscal year.

c. Up to 10 percent of the direct and purchased administration expenditure total identified in the region's current approved annual service and budget plan may be claimed as an encumbrance.

d. Requests to encumber funds toward multiyear projects with the purpose to provide access to required core services shall be limited to actual needs for the current fiscal year.

25.13(7) *Encumbrance reporting and approval.*

a. The region shall submit a detailed accounting of encumbered funds to the department on or before July 31 on forms specified by the department.

(1) The department may request additional information to determine whether the region's reported contracts and binding commitments qualify as acceptable encumbrances.

(2) A plan for expenditure, including a description of activities related to required core services, shall accompany documentation for multiyear projects.

b. By August 31, the department shall notify the region, in writing, of the decision and the accepted amount to be considered encumbered. The decision of the department is final.

c. Regional commitments that are denied as acceptable encumbrances shall be included in the calculation of the ending fund balance for the previous fiscal year.

d. Encumbrances that are not fulfilled within the time frames specified in subrule 25.13(6) shall be included in the ending fund balance amount.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6237C, IAB 3/9/22, effective 5/1/22; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.14(225C) Regional governance agreement. The expectations for regional governance agreements entered into by the counties comprising a mental health and disability services region are defined in Iowa Code sections 28E.1, 225C.55, 225C.57, and 225C.59.

25.14(1) *Organizational provisions.* The organizational provisions of the regional governance agreement shall include the following:

a. A statement of purpose, goals, and objective of entering into the agreement.

b. Identification of the governing board membership and the terms, methods of appointment, and voting procedures, including whether or not voting will be weighted.

c. The identification of the process for selecting the executive staff, including but not limited to the chief executive officer of the regional administrative entity.

d. Identification of the counties participating in the agreement.

e. The time period of the agreement and terms for termination or renewal of the agreement.

f. Provisions for joining a region. Additional counties may join the region. The agreement shall not prohibit a county from being assigned by the department to a region according to Iowa Code section 225C.56(4) "c."

g. Methods for dispute resolution and mediation.

h. Methods for termination of a county's participation in the region.

i. Provision for formation and assigned responsibilities for one or more regional advisory committees for adult mental health and disability services consisting of:

(1) Individuals who utilize services or the actively involved relatives of such individuals.

(2) Service providers of adult mental health and disability services.

(3) Governing board members.

- (4) Other interests identified in the agreement.
- j. Provision for formation and assigned responsibilities for one or more regional advisory committees for children's behavioral health services consisting of:
 - (1) A parent of a child who utilizes services or an actively involved relative of such child.
 - (2) A member of the education system.
 - (3) An early childhood advocate.
 - (4) A child welfare advocate.
 - (5) A children's behavioral health service provider.
 - (6) A member of the juvenile court.
 - (7) A pediatrician.
 - (8) A child care provider.
 - (9) A local law enforcement representative.
 - (10) A regional governing board member.
- k. Methods for reimbursing member counties if county employees are conducting regional work.

25.14(2) *Administrative provisions.* The administrative provisions of the regional governance agreement shall include all of the following:

- a. Identification of whether the region will either directly implement a system of service management or contract with a private entity to manage the regional service system as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.60(7).
- b. Responsibility of the governing board in appointing and evaluating the performance of the chief executive officer of the regional administrative entity.
- c. A general list of the functions and responsibilities of the regional administrative entity's chief executive officer and other staff including but not limited to coordinators of mental health and disability services and coordinators of children's behavioral health services.
- d. Specification of the functions to be carried out by each party to the agreement and by any subcontractor of a party to the agreement.

25.14(3) *Financial provisions.* The financial provisions of the regional governance agreement shall include all of the following:

- a. Methods for pooling, managing and expending funds under control of the regional administrative entity.
- b. Methods for allocating administrative funding and resources.
- c. Methods for allocating a region's cash flow amount in the event a county leaves the region. A region's cash flow amount shall be divided by the percentage of each county's population according to the region's population indicated in the region's annual service and budget plan and shall be allocated to the counties.
- d. Methods for contributing initial funds to the region.
- e. Methods for acquiring or disposing of real property.
- f. The process for how to use savings achieved for reinvestment.
- g. A process for performance of an annual independent audit of the regional administrator, and methods for submitting the audit to the department upon completion.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 5956C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 12/1/21; ARC 6237C, IAB 3/9/22, effective 5/1/22; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.15(225C) Eligibility, diagnosis, and functional assessment criteria.

25.15(1) *Eligibility for mental health services.* An individual must comply with all of the following requirements to be eligible for mental health services under the regional service system:

- a. The individual complies with the financial eligibility requirements in rule 441—25.16(225C).
- b. The individual is at least 18 years of age.
- c. The individual is a resident of this state.
- d. The individual has had at any time during the preceding 12-month period a mental health, behavioral, or emotional disorder or, in the opinion of a mental health professional, may now have such a diagnosable disorder. The diagnosis shall be made in accordance with the criteria provided in the most

recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association (published 2013, with all changes and updates approved by the American Psychiatric Association through September 2023 incorporated herein) and shall not include the manual's "V" codes identifying conditions other than a disease or injury. The diagnosis shall also not include substance-related disorders, dementia, antisocial personality, or developmental disabilities, unless co-occurring with another diagnosable mental illness.

e. The results of a standardized functional assessment support the need for mental health services of the type and frequency identified in the individual's case plan. The standardized functional assessment methodology shall be designated for mental health services by the director in consultation with the state commission. A functional assessment must be completed within 90 days of application for services.

25.15(2) *Eligibility for children's behavioral health services.* An individual must comply with all of the following requirements to be eligible for children's behavioral health services under the regional service system:

- a. The individual is a child under 18 years of age.
- b. The child's custodial parent is a resident of the state of Iowa, and the child is physically present in the state.
- c. The child's family meets the financial eligibility requirements in rule 441—25.16(225C).
- d. The child has been diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. A serious emotional disturbance diagnosis is not required to access comprehensive facility and community-based crisis services according to Iowa Code section 225C.66(4) "b."

25.15(3) *Eligibility for intellectual disability services.* An individual must comply with all of the following requirements to be eligible for intellectual disability services under the regional service system:

- a. The individual complies with the financial eligibility requirements in rule 441—25.16(225C).
- b. The individual is at least 18 years of age.
- c. The individual is a resident of this state.
- d. The individual has a diagnosis of intellectual disability as defined by rule 441—83.60(249A).
- e. The results of a standardized functional assessment support the need for intellectual disability services of the type and frequency identified in the individual's case plan. The standardized functional assessment methodology shall be designated for intellectual services by the director in consultation with the state commission. A functional assessment must be completed within 90 days of application for services.

25.15(4) *Other conditions of eligibility for intellectual disability services.*

a. An individual who is 17 years of age, is a resident of this state, and is receiving publicly funded children's services may be considered eligible for services through the regional service system during the three-month period preceding the individual's eighteenth birthday in order to provide a smooth transition from children's to adult services.

b. An individual less than 18 years of age and a resident of the state may be considered eligible for those intellectual disability services made available to all or a portion of the residents of the region of the same age and eligibility class under the county management plan of one or more counties of the region applicable prior to formation of the region. Eligibility for services under this paragraph is limited to availability of regional service system funds without limiting or reducing core services, and if part of the approved regional service system management plan.

25.15(5) *Eligibility for brain injury services.* An individual must comply with all of the following requirements to be eligible for brain injury services under the regional service system, if such services were provided to the same class of individuals by a county in the region prior to regional formation.

- a. The individual complies with the financial eligibility requirements in rule 441—25.16(225C).
- b. The individual is at least 18 years of age.
- c. The individual is a resident of this state.
- d. The individual has a diagnosis of brain injury as defined in rule 441—83.81(249A).
- e. The results of a standardized functional assessment support the need for brain injury services of the type and frequency identified in the individual's case plan. The standardized functional assessment methodology used is the methodology approved for brain injury services by the director in consultation

with the state commission. A functional assessment must be completed within 90 days of application for services.

25.15(6) *Other conditions of eligibility for brain injury services.* An individual who is 17 years of age, is a resident of this state, and is receiving publicly funded children's services may be considered eligible for services through the regional service system during the three-month period preceding the individual's eighteenth birthday in order to provide a smooth transition from children's to adult services.

25.15(7) *Eligibility for developmental disability services.*

a. Until funding is designated for other service populations, eligibility for the core service domains shall be as identified in Iowa Code section 225C.65(2) "*b.*"

b. If a county in a region was providing services to an eligibility class of individuals with a developmental disability other than intellectual disability prior to formation of the region, the class of individuals shall remain eligible for the services provided when the region is formed, providing that funds are available to continue such services without limiting or reducing core services. The individual must also meet the requirements in paragraphs 25.15(7) "*c.*," "*d.*," "*e.*" and "*f.*"

c. The individual complies with the financial eligibility requirements in rule 441—25.16(225C).

d. The individual is at least 18 years of age.

e. The individual is a resident of this state.

f. The individual has a diagnosis of a developmental disability other than an intellectual disability as defined in rule 441—24.1(225C).

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.16(225C) Financial eligibility requirements. The regional service system management plan shall identify basic financial eligibility standards for mental health and disability services as defined in Iowa Code sections 225C.62 and 225C.64.

25.16(1) *Income requirements.*

a. Income requirements for adult mental health and disability services shall be as follows:

(1) The person must have an income equal to or less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

(2) A person who is eligible for federally funded services and other support must apply for such services and support.

b. Income requirements for children's behavioral health services shall be as follows:

(1) The child's family has countable household income equal to or less than 500 percent of the federal poverty level. Countable household income and family size shall be determined using the modified adjusted gross income methodology.

(2) An eligible child whose family's countable household income is at least 150 percent and not more than 500 percent of the federal poverty level shall be subject to a cost share as described in subrule 25.16(3).

(3) Verification of income. Income shall be verified using the best information available.

1. Pay stubs, tip records and employers' statements are acceptable forms of verification of earned income.

2. Self-employment income can be verified through business records from the previous year if they are representative of anticipated earnings. If business records from the previous year are not representative of anticipated earnings, an average of the business records from the previous two or three years may be used if that average is representative of anticipated earnings.

(4) Changes in income. Financial eligibility shall be reviewed on an annual basis and may be reviewed more often in response to increases or decreases in income.

(5) A child who is eligible for federally funded services and other support must apply for such services and support.

25.16(2) *Resource requirements.* There are no resource limits for the family of a child seeking children's behavioral health services. An adult seeking mental health and disability services must have resources that are equal to or less than \$2,000 in countable value for a single-person household or \$3,000 in countable value for a multiperson household or follow the most recent federal supplemental security income guidelines.

a. The countable value of all countable resources, both liquid and non-liquid, shall be included in the eligibility determination except as exempted in this subrule.

b. A transfer of property or other assets within five years of the time of application with the result of, or intent to, qualify for assistance may result in denial or discontinuation of funding.

c. The following resources shall be exempt:

(1) The homestead, including equity in a family home or farm that is used as the individual household's principal place of residence. The homestead shall include all land that is contiguous to the home and the buildings located on the land.

(2) One automobile used for transportation.

(3) Tools of an actively pursued trade.

(4) General household furnishings and personal items.

(5) Burial account or trust limited in value as to that allowed in the medical assistance program.

(6) Cash surrender value of life insurance with a face value of less than \$1,500 on any one person.

(7) Any resource determined excludable by the Social Security Administration as a result of an approved Social Security Administration work incentive.

d. If an individual does not qualify for federally funded or state-funded services or other support but meets all income, resource, and functional eligibility requirements of this chapter, the following types of resources shall additionally be considered exempt from consideration in eligibility determination:

(1) A retirement account that is in the accumulation stage.

(2) A medical savings account.

(3) An assistive technology account.

(4) A burial account or trust limited in value as to that allowed in the medical assistance program.

e. An individual who is eligible for federally funded services and other support must apply for and accept such funding and support.

25.16(3) *Cost-share standards.* A regional administrative entity must comply with cost-share standards as defined in Iowa Code sections 225C.62 and 225C.64.

a. Cost sharing is allowed for adults with income above 150 percent of the federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Cost-share amounts for regionally funded adult mental health and disability services in this rule are related to core services as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.65 and must be identified in the enrollment and eligibility section of the region's policy and procedures approved by the department.

b. Cost-share amounts for children's behavioral health services are applicable to core services as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.66. The family of a child receiving regional funding for behavioral health services shall be responsible for a cost-share amount based on the family's household income as follows:

Family Income as a % of FPL	Cost Share % Paid by Family
0 to 150%	0%
151 to 200%	10%
201 to 250%	15%
251 to 300%	20%
301 to 350%	35%
351 to 400%	50%
401 to 450%	65%
451 to 500%	80%
Over 500%	100%

25.16(4) *Cost-share standards required by any federal, state, regional, or municipal program.* Any cost sharing or other client participation required by any federal, state, regional or municipal program in which the individual participates shall be required by the regional administrative entity. Such cost sharing includes, but is not limited to:

a. Client participation for maintenance in a residential care facility through the state supplementary assistance program.

b. The financial liability for institutional services paid by counties as provided in Iowa Code section 230.15.

c. The financial liability for attorney fees related to commitment as provided by Iowa Code section 229.8.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.17(225C) Exempted counties. If a county has been exempted pursuant to Iowa Code section 225C.56 from the requirement to enter into a regional service system, the county and the county's board of supervisors shall fulfill all the requirements of this chapter for a regional service system management plan.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.18(225C) Annual service and budget plan. The annual service and budget plan shall describe the services to be provided and the cost of those services for the ensuing year.

25.18(1) The annual service and budget plan is due on April 1 prior to the July 1 implementation of the annual plan and shall be approved by the region's governing board prior to submittal to the department.

25.18(2) The annual service and budget plan shall include but not be limited to the following:

a. Access points. A list of the local access points for mental health and disability services and children's behavioral health services, including the names of the access points and the physical locations and contact information.

b. Service coordination and targeted case management. A list of the service coordination and targeted case management agencies utilized in the region, whether funded by the region, the medical assistance program, or third-party payers, including the physical location and contact information for those agencies.

c. Crisis planning. A list of accredited crisis services available in the region for crisis prevention, response and resolution, including contact information for the agencies responsible.

d. Intensive mental health services. Identification of the intensive mental health services designated by the region according to rule 441—25.6(225C), including the provider name, contact information, and location of each of the following:

(1) Access center(s).

(2) ACT services.

(3) Intensive residential services.

(4) Subacute mental health services.

e. Children's behavioral health services. Identification of children's behavioral health services as described in subrule 25.2(4), including contact information for the agencies responsible and eligibility requirements or reference to where eligibility requirements can be found in the policies and procedures manual.

f. Scope of services. A description of the scope of services to be provided, a projection of need for the service, and the funding necessary to meet the need.

(1) The scope shall include the regional core services as identified in rule 441—25.2(225C).

(2) The scope shall also include services in addition to the required core services.

g. Budget and financing provisions for the next year. The provisions shall address how regional, state and other funding sources will be used to meet the service needs within the region.

h. Financial forecasting measures. A description of the financial forecasting measures used in the identification of service need and funding necessary for services and a financial statement of actual revenues and actual expenses by chart of account codes.

i. Provider reimbursement provisions. A description of the types of provider reimbursement methods that will be used, including fee for service, compensation for a "system of care" approach, and for use of nontraditional providers. A region also shall provide information on funding approaches that identify and incorporate all services and sources of funding used by the individuals receiving services, including the medical assistance program.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.19(225C) Annual service and budget plan approval. The annual service and budget plan shall be submitted each year by April 1. The director shall review all regional annual service and budget plans submitted by the dates specified. If the director finds the regional annual service and budget plan in compliance with these rules and state and federal laws, the director may approve the plan. A plan approved by the director for a fiscal year beginning July 1 shall remain in effect until June 30, subject to amendment.

25.19(1) *Criteria for acceptance.* The director shall determine a plan is acceptable when it contains all the required information, meets the criteria described in this division, and is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. The director may request additional information to determine whether or not the plan contains all the required information and meets criteria described in this division.

25.19(2) *Notification.* Except as specified in subrule 25.19(3), the director shall notify the region in writing of the decision on the plan by June 1 of each year. The decision shall specify that either:

a. The annual service and budget plan is approved as it was submitted, either with or without supplemental information already requested and received.

b. The annual service and budget plan will not be approved until revisions are made. The letter will specify the nature of the revisions requested and the time frames for their submission.

25.19(3) *Review of late submittals.* The director may review plans not submitted by April 1 after all plans submitted by that date have been reviewed. The director will proceed with the late submittals in a timely manner.

25.19(4) *Amendments.* An amendment to the annual service and budget plan shall be approved by the regional governance board and submitted to the department at least 45 days before the date of implementation. Before implementation of any amendment to the plan, the director must approve the amendment.

a. Criteria for acceptance. The director shall determine an amendment is acceptable when it contains all the required information and meets the criteria described in this division for the applicable part of the annual service and budget plan and is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. The director may request additional information to determine whether or not the amendment contains all the required information and meets criteria described in this division.

b. Notification. The director shall notify the region, in writing, of the decision on the amendment within 45 days of receipt of the amendment. The decision shall specify either that:

(1) The amendment is approved as it was submitted, either with or without supplemental information already requested and received.

(2) The amendment is not approved. The notification will include why the amendment is not approved.

25.19(5) *Reconsideration.* Regions dissatisfied with the director's decision on a plan or an amendment may file a letter with the director requesting reconsideration. The letter requesting reconsideration must be received within 30 working days of the date of the notice of decision and shall include a request for the director to review the decision and the reasons for dissatisfaction. Within 30 working days of the receipt of the letter requesting reconsideration, the director will review both the reconsideration request and evidence provided. The director shall issue a final decision in writing.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.20(225C) Annual report. The annual report shall describe the services provided, the cost of those services, the number of individuals served, and the outcomes achieved for the previous fiscal year. The annual report is due on December 1 following a completed fiscal year of implementing the annual service and budget plan. The annual report shall include but not be limited to:

1. Services actually provided.
2. The status of service development.
3. Actual numbers of children and adults served.
4. Documentation that each regionally designated access center has met the service standards in subrule 25.6(1).

5. Documentation that each regionally designated ACT team has been evaluated for program fidelity, including a peer review as required by subrule 25.6(2), and documentation of each team's most recent fidelity score.

6. Documentation that each regionally designated subacute service has met the service standards in subrule 25.6(7).

7. Documentation that each regionally designated intensive residential service home or intensive residential service has met the service standards in subrule 25.6(8).

8. Financial statement of actual revenues and actual expenditures by chart of account codes, including levies by county.

9. Outcomes achieved.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4207C, IAB 1/2/19, effective 3/1/19; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.21(225C) Policies and procedures manual for the regional service system. The policies and procedures manual shall describe the policies and process developed to direct the management and administration of the regional service system.

25.21(1) Content. The manual shall include but not be limited to:

a. Financing and delivery of services and supports. A description of the region's process used to develop and ensure the ongoing financial accountability and delivery of services outlined in the region's annual service and budget plan shall be included.

b. Enrollment. The application and enrollment process that is readily accessible to individuals and their families or authorized representatives shall be included. This procedure shall identify regional access points and where individuals can apply for services and how and when the applications will reach the regional administrative entity's designated staff for processing.

c. Eligibility. The process utilized to determine eligibility shall be included in the manual and shall include but not be limited to:

(1) The criteria used to authorize or deny funding for services and supports. This shall include guidelines for who is eligible to receive services and supports by eligibility group, and type of service or support.

(2) Financial eligibility and copayment criteria, which shall meet the requirements of rule 441—25.16(225C).

(3) The time frames for conducting eligibility determination that provide for timely access to services, including necessary and immediate services not to exceed ten days.

(4) The process for development of a written notice of decision. The time frame for sending a written notice of decision to the individual and guardian (if applicable) and the service providers identified in the notice shall be included. The notice of decision shall:

1. Explain the action taken on the application and the reasons for that action.

2. State what services are approved and name the service providers.

3. Outline the individual's right to appeal.

4. Describe the appeal process.

d. Utilization of and access to services. The process for managing utilization of and access to services and other assistance shall be included. The process shall describe how coordination between the services included in the annual service and budget plan and the disability services administered by the state and others will be managed.

e. Quality management and improvement process. The quality management and improvement process shall at a minimum meet the requirements of the department's outcome and performance measures process as outlined in Iowa Code sections 225C.4(1) "k" and 225C.6A.

f. Risk management and fiscal viability. If the region contracts with a private entity, the manual must include risk management provisions and fiscal viability of the annual services and budget plan.

g. Targeted case management.

(1) Designation of targeted case management providers. The process used to identify and designate targeted case management providers for the region shall be described. This process shall include the

requirement for the implementation of evidence-based practice models of case management within the region. Requirements of this practice include:

1. Providing the individual receiving the case management with a choice of providers.
2. Allowing a service provider to be the case manager but prohibiting the provider from referring that individual only to services administered by the provider.
3. Provisions to ensure compliance with, but not exceed, federal requirements for conflict-free case management.

(2) Qualifications of targeted case managers. A region's manual shall require that any targeted case managers or other persons providing service coordination while working for the designated provider meet the qualifications of qualified case managers and supervisors as defined in rule 441—24.1(225C).

(3) Targeted case management and service coordination services. Targeted case management and service coordination services utilized in a regional service system shall include but are not limited to the following as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.60(4) "g":

1. Performance and outcome measures relating to the health, safety, school attendance and performance, work performance, and community residency of the individuals receiving the services.

2. Standards for delivery of the services, including but not limited to the social history, assessment, service planning, incident reporting, crisis planning, coordination, and monitoring for individuals receiving the services.

3. Methodologies for complying with the requirements of paragraph 25.21(1) "g." Methodologies may include the use of electronic record keeping and remote or Internet-based training.

h. System of care approach plan.

i. Decentralized service provision. Measures to provide services in a dispersed manner that meet the minimum access standards of core services and that utilize the strengths and assets of the service providers within and available to the region shall be included.

j. Provider network formation and management. The manual shall require that providers that are subject to license, accreditation or approval meet established standards. The manual shall detail the approval process, including criteria, developed to select providers that are not currently subject to license, accreditation or approval standards. The manual shall identify the process the regional administrative entity will use to contract with providers and manage the provider network to ensure it meets the needs of the individuals in the region. The provider network will include but is not limited to the following:

- (1) A contract with a community mental health center that provides services in the individual's region or with a federally qualified health center that provides psychiatric and outpatient mental health services in the individual's region.

- (2) Contracts with licensed and accredited providers to provide each service in the required core service domains.

- (3) Adequate numbers of licensed and accredited providers to ensure availability of core services so that there is no waiting list for services due to lack of available providers.

- (4) A contract with an inpatient psychiatric hospital unit or state mental health institute within reasonably close proximity.

k. Service provider payment provisions. A policy for payment of service providers which describes the method and process of paying for services and supports delivered to the region shall be included.

l. Grievance processes. The manual shall develop and implement processes for appealing the decisions of the regional administrative entity in the following circumstances:

- (1) Nonexpedited appeal process. The appeal process shall be based on objective criteria, specify time frames, provide for notification in accessible formats of the decisions to all parties, and provide some assistance to individuals with disabilities using the process. Responsibility for the final step in the appeal process shall be a state administrative law judge in nonexpedited appeals.

- (2) Expedited appeal process. This appeal process is to be used when the decision of the regional administrative entity concerning an individual varies from the type and amount of service identified to be necessary for the individual in a clinical determination made by a mental health professional and the mental health professional believes that the failure to provide the type and amount of service identified could cause an immediate danger to an individual's health or safety. This appeal process shall be performed by a mental

health professional who is either the administrator of the division of mental health and disability services of the department of human services or the administrator's designee.

1. The appeal shall be filed within five days of receipt of the notice of decision by the regional administrative entity.

2. The expedited review by the division administrator or designee shall take place within two days of receipt of the request, unless more information is needed. There is an extension of two days from the time the new information is received.

3. The administrator shall issue an order, including a brief statement of findings of fact, conclusions of law, and policy reasons for the order, to justify the decision made concerning the expedited review. If the decision concurs with the contention that there is an immediate danger to the individual's health or safety, the order shall identify the type and amount of service which shall be provided for the individual. The administrator or designee shall give such notice as is practicable to individuals who are required to comply with the order. The order is effective when issued.

4. The decision of the administrator or designee shall be considered a final agency action and is subject to judicial review in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.19.

m. Implementation of interagency and multisystem collaboration and care coordination. The policies and procedures manual shall describe how the region will collaborate with other funders, other regional service systems, service providers, case management, individuals and their families or authorized representatives, and advocates to ensure that authorized services and supports are responsive to individuals' needs, consistent with system principles, and cost-efficient. The manual shall describe the process for collaboration with the court to ensure alternatives to commitment and to coordinate funding for services to individuals who are under court-ordered commitment services pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 229.

n. Addressing multioccurring needs. The policies and procedures manual shall include criteria and measures to be used to address the needs of individuals who have two or more co-occurring mental health, intellectual or other developmental disability, brain injury, or substance-related disorders. The manual shall also include criteria and measures to be used to address the needs of individuals with specialized needs.

o. Service management and functional assessment. The policies and procedures manual shall describe how functional assessments and service management will be incorporated in accordance with applicable requirements.

p. Service system management. The policies and procedures manual shall identify whether the region will be directly implementing a system of service management or will contract with a private entity to manage the regional service system. If the region contracts with a private entity, the region will ensure that all requirements of Iowa Code section 225C.60 and these administrative rules are fulfilled.

q. Assistance to other than core service populations. The policies and procedures manual shall specify the services populations, other than core service populations, to whom the region will provide assistance if funding is available.

r. Waiting list criteria. The policies and procedures manual shall specify whether the region will use waiting lists. If the policy and procedures manual specifies the use of waiting lists for funding services and supports, it shall specify criteria for the use and review of each waiting list, including the criteria to be used to determine how and when an individual will be placed on a waiting list. The criteria will include how core services and additional core services will be impacted the least by budgetary limitations. The manual shall specify how waiting list data will be used in future planning.

25.21(2) Approval. A region's policy and procedures manual shall be approved by the region's governing board and is subject to approval by the director of human services. The director shall review all regional policy and procedures manuals. Manuals approved by the director shall remain in effect subject to amendment.

25.21(3) Amendments. An amendment to the policy and procedures manual shall be approved by the regional governance board and submitted to the department at least 45 days before the date of implementation. Before implementation of any amendment to the manual, the director must approve the amendment.

a. *Criteria for acceptance.* The director, in consultation with the state commission, shall determine an amendment is acceptable when it contains all the required information and meets the criteria described

in this division for the applicable part of the policy and procedures manual and is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. The director may request additional information to determine whether or not the amendment contains all the required information and meets criteria described in this division.

b. Notification. The director shall notify the region, in writing, of the decision on the amendment within 45 days of receipt of the amendment. The decision shall specify either that:

(1) The amendment is approved as it was submitted, either with or without supplemental information already requested and received.

(2) The amendment is not approved. The notification will explain why the amendment is not approved.

25.21(4) Reconsideration. Regions dissatisfied with the director's decision on a manual or an amendment may file a letter with the director requesting reconsideration. The letter of reconsideration must be received within 30 working days of the date of the notice of decision and shall include a request for the director to review the decision and the reasons for dissatisfaction. Within 30 working days of the receipt of the letter requesting reconsideration, the director will review both the reconsideration request and evidence provided. The director shall issue a final decision in writing.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 225C.55 to 225C.67.

[ARC 1173C, IAB 11/13/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.22(225C) Incentive fund application, approval, and reporting.

25.22(1) Application for regional incentive funds. A mental health and disability services region must submit an application on forms specified by the department with required supporting documentation. An application to receive regional incentive funds must meet the following requirements:

a. The region shall submit the application with supporting documentation electronically to the department by 4:30 p.m. on November 15 of the state fiscal year in which funding is requested.

b. The application shall be complete and signed by the chairperson of the regional governing board and regional chief executive officer.

c. Application supporting documentation shall include evidence to demonstrate compliance with subrule 25.22(2).

25.22(2) Applicant conditions. To receive funding, a region must submit to the department sufficient data to demonstrate that the region has met the standards in the region's performance-based contract outlined in rule 441—25.23(225C). Additionally, the region must meet the following conditions:

a. The region must be in compliance with the regional service system management plan as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.60.

b. The region's ending fund balance in the fiscal year that commenced two years prior to the year of application shall meet the ending balance threshold in accordance with Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

c. The region must need incentive funds for one or more of the following circumstances:

(1) If the region has an operating deficit, to reimburse the region for a reduction in available funding for core services as the result of the reduction and elimination of the levy.

(2) To incentivize quality core services that meet or exceed the defined outcomes in the performance-based contract.

(3) To support regional efforts to fund non-core services that support the defined outcomes of core services in the performance-based contract.

(4) For support of non-core services to maintain individuals in a community setting or reduce the risk that individuals needing services and supports would be placed in more restrictive, higher-cost settings.

25.22(3) Incentive fund application review and approval. The department shall make its final decisions for incentive funds on or before December 15 of the fiscal year of application.

a. A written notice regarding acceptance or rejection of an application and the total amount obligated shall be furnished to the mental health and disability services region.

b. The department shall distribute incentive funds payable to the mental health and disability services regions for the amounts due on or before January 1.

25.22(4) *Incentive fund reporting.* Mental health and disability services regions shall submit to the department a report on forms specified by the department twice each calendar year subsequent to an award distribution. Reports shall be submitted by February 15 and August 15.

25.22(5) *Incentive fund review.* The department shall analyze year-end financial records and annual independent audits of the mental health and disability services region for all years subsequent to an incentive fund award. If the department determines a mental health and disability services region's actual need for incentive funds was less than the amount of incentive funds granted, the mental health and disability services region shall refund the difference between the amount of assistance granted and the actual need.

a. A written notice outlining the department's findings and moneys identified for repayment shall be furnished to the regional administrative entity.

b. The mental health and disability services region shall submit the refund within 30 days of receiving notice from the department. Refunds shall be credited to the incentive fund.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

[ARC 6008C, IAB 11/3/21, effective 10/4/21; ARC 6195C, IAB 2/9/22, effective 3/16/22; ARC 6237C, IAB 3/9/22, effective 5/1/22; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.23(225C) Performance-based contract. The mental health and disability services region shall enter into a performance-based contract with the department to administer the service system in accordance with Iowa Code section 225C.7A. The performance-based contract shall include but not be limited to the following requirements:

25.23(1) The department will approve, deny, or revise each region's annual service and budget plan in accordance with rule 441—25.19(225C).

25.23(2) The region will provide access to all core services under Iowa Code sections 225C.65 and 225C.66 and in accordance with this chapter.

25.23(3) The region will utilize all federal government funding, including Medicaid funding, third-party payment sources, and other nongovernmental funding, prior to using regional service payments.

25.23(4) The department will perform an annual review of the region's administrative costs.

25.23(5) The department will establish outcome improvement goals for populations served by the region, including but not limited to:

a. Decreases in emergency department visits.

b. Improved use of mobile crisis response and jail diversion programs.

c. Improved employment-based outcomes.

25.23(6) The department will take steps to address a region's noncompliance with the contract in accordance with Iowa Code section 225C.56.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 225C.7A.

[ARC 6237C, IAB 3/9/22, effective 5/1/22; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.24 to 25.40 Reserved.

DIVISION III MINIMUM DATA SET

441—25.41(225C) Minimum data set. Each region shall maintain data on all clients served.

25.41(1) *Submission of data.* Each region shall submit to the department a copy of the data regarding each individual that the region serves.

a. The state supplementary assistance program, mental health institutes, state resource centers, Medicaid program, and Medicaid managed care contractors shall provide the equivalent data in a compatible format on the same schedule as the required submission from the regions.

b. The department shall maintain the data for research and analysis purposes only. Only summary data shall be reported to policymakers or the public.

25.41(2) *Data required.* The data to be submitted are as follows:

a. Basic individual information including a unique identifier, name, address, and county of residence.

- b. The state I.D. number when applicable.
- c. Demographic information including date of birth, sex, ethnicity, marital status, education, residential living arrangement, current employment status, monthly income, income sources, type of insurance, insurance carrier, veterans' status, guardianship status, legal status in the system, source of referral, diagnosis code in the current version of the ICD, disability group (i.e., intellectual disability, developmental disability, mental illness, brain injury), and county of residence number.
- d. Service information including the decision on services, date of decision, termination date and reason for termination, residence, approved service, service beginning dates, service ending dates, reason for terminating each service, approved units of services, unit rate for service, expenditure data, and provider data.
- e. Regions shall submit data according to the file layouts, format, and naming conventions prescribed by the department. Any changes to the data submission requirements will be made in consultation with the regional administrators.
- f. Regions must submit their data for each fiscal year by December 1 of the following fiscal year.
 - (1) When a region's data is incomplete or is not compliant with the prescribed file layouts, format, or naming conventions the region will be notified by email.
 - (2) The region shall resubmit corrected files or provide an explanation for noncompliant data within 30 days of the date of the email notice.
 - (3) If the region remains noncompliant after the 30-day time period, the department may take action as allowable under the performance-based contracts established pursuant to rule 441—25.23(225C).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 225C, subchapter V.

[ARC 2164C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 10/1/15; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.42 to 25.50 Reserved.

DIVISION IV MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES

PREAMBLE

This division establishes definitions, appointment and qualifications, assignment, responsibilities of the advocate and the county, data collection requirements, and quality assurance for mental health advocate services under Iowa Code chapter 229.

[ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

441—25.51(229) Definitions.

“Advocate” means mental health advocate as defined in Iowa Code section 229.1.

“Conflict of interest” means any activity that interferes or gives the appearance of interference with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment.

“County of residence” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.61.

“County of venue” means the county in which the Iowa Code chapter 229 commitment was filed pursuant to Iowa Code section 229.44.

“County where the individual is located” means the individual's county of residence as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.61, or if the individual has been ordered to receive treatment services under an Iowa Code chapter 229 commitment and is placed in a residential or other treatment facility.

“Individual” means the respondent who is receiving mental health advocate services under Iowa Code chapter 229.

“Judicial district” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 602.6107.

“Mental health and disability services region” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 225C.56.

[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.52(229) Advocate appointment and qualifications. The board of supervisors of each county shall appoint a person to act as an advocate representing the interests of individuals involuntarily hospitalized by the court under Iowa Code chapter 229. The advocate is hired by the board of supervisors and employed by the county.

25.52(1) A person may be appointed and employed or contracted with as the advocate by one county or by multiple counties. Advocates may be appointed for counties in more than one judicial district or more than one mental health and disability services region.

25.52(2) Qualifications.

a. The advocate shall meet the following qualifications:

(1) Possess a bachelor's degree with 30 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours in a human services field (including, but not limited to, psychology, social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, nursing, education, occupational therapy, and recreational therapy) and at least one year of experience in the delivery of services to persons with mental illness; or

(2) Hold an Iowa license to practice as a registered nurse and have at least three years of experience in delivery of services to persons with mental illness.

b. A person employed as an advocate on or before July 1, 2015, who does not meet the requirements of subparagraph 25.52(2) "a" (1) or (2) shall be considered to meet those requirements so long as the person is continuously appointed as an advocate in the employing county.

c. A person employed as an advocate must pass criminal background, sex offender registry, and child and dependent adult abuse registry checks before hire.

[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

441—25.53(229) Advocate assignment. The committing court shall assign the advocate from the county where the individual is located.

25.53(1) If the advocate assigned cannot serve the individual in an effective and efficient manner, the advocate may request another advocate to perform advocate duties on the individual's behalf. In the event that another advocate can better represent the individual on a longer term basis, the advocate shall request that the court transfer the individual to another advocate.

25.53(2) When a conflict of interest is identified between an advocate and an individual, the court and the advocate's county of employment shall be notified and an alternative advocate shall be assigned. The advocate's direct supervisor is responsible to monitor and ensure that the advocate does not have a conflict of interest. In instances when dual or multiple relationships are unavoidable, advocates should take steps to protect individuals and are responsible for setting clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries. Advocates who anticipate a conflict of interest among the individuals receiving services should clarify the advocate's role with the parties involved and take appropriate action to minimize any conflict of interest.

25.53(3) When the advocate assigned is not the advocate from the individual's county of residence, the advocate's county of employment may seek reimbursement from the region in which the individual's county of residence is located as outlined in Iowa Code section 229.19(1) "b."

25.53(4) An advocate shall only be assigned to a child 17 years of age or under when the child is not represented by an attorney due to an existing child in need of assistance (CINA) or other juvenile court action pursuant to the Iowa Code.

[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

441—25.54(229) Advocate responsibilities. The minimum duties of the advocate are outlined in Iowa Code section 229.19. The role of the advocate is to ensure that the rights of the individual are upheld.

25.54(1) The advocate shall be readily accessible to communication from the individual and shall initiate contact within 5 days of the individual's commitment. The advocate shall inform the individual regarding the role of the advocate.

25.54(2) The advocate shall meet the individual in person within 15 days of the individual's commitment. The advocate shall present the county grievance procedure process, in writing, to the individual. The presentation shall include the county grievance procedure and contact information and the contact information for the ombudsman. The advocate shall inform the individual about the mental health crisis services that are available.

25.54(3) The advocate shall review each report submitted to the court and communicate with the individual's medical and treatment team. Advocates shall abide by all federal, state, and local confidentiality laws.

25.54(4) The advocate shall file in a form prescribed by the court as the advocate feels necessary or as required for each individual assigned to the advocate.

25.54(5) The advocate shall maintain an organized confidential and secure file for each individual served. The file shall contain but not be limited to:

- a.* Copies of quarterly reports submitted to the court.
- b.* Copies of correspondence sent to and received from the individual, family members, providers and others.
- c.* Releases of information.
- d.* Case notes describing the date, time and type of contact with the individuals or others and a brief narrative summary of the content or outcome of the contact.
- e.* Documents filed with the court electronically shall be considered as part of the individual's file.

25.54(6) The advocate shall register as provided in Iowa Ct. R. 16.305(1) to participate in the court's electronic document management system and shall submit all documents to be filed with the court electronically. The documents will be stored as electronic records that are retrievable and readable through the electronic document management system.

25.54(7) The advocate, as an employee of the county, shall comply with all county policies and procedures, including but not limited to hiring, supervision, grievance procedures, and training.

25.54(8) All advocate records are the property of the county, which is responsible for the provision of confidential storage, transfer, and destruction of client files, including those maintained on electronic and digital devices, with access limited according to the county's policy on confidentiality as described in subrule 25.55(6).

25.54(9) The advocate may attend the hospitalization hearing of an individual represented by an attorney; however, payment for the advocate's attendance is at the discretion of the county of employment.
[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 6613C, IAB 11/2/22, effective 1/1/23]

441—25.55(229) County responsibilities. As the employer of the advocate, the county shall provide qualified staff to support and facilitate the provision of quality advocate services. The county shall:

25.55(1) Assign a single supervisor, a single contract manager, or the county board of supervisors as the supervising entity to carry out responsibilities in this chapter.

25.55(2) Have a job description in the personnel file of the advocate that clearly defines the advocate's responsibilities and qualifications as defined in Iowa Code section 229.19 and in rule 441—25.104(229).

25.55(3) Have a process to verify, within 90 days of the advocate's hire, qualification of the advocate, including degrees and certifications obtained from a primary source.

25.55(4) Provide to the advocate training and education relevant to the position, including but not limited to overview of mental health diagnosis and treatment, the mental health and disability services delivery system, confidentiality, individual rights, professional conduct, the role of advocacy and service coordination within an interdisciplinary team, Iowa Code and administrative rules, and court procedures.

25.55(5) Provide approved training on child and dependent adult abuse reporter requirements.

25.55(6) Provide to any employee with access to individuals' files training on state and federal laws regarding nondisclosure and confidentiality of client protected health information during and after employment and maintain in the personnel files a signed document indicating the employee's awareness of the county's policy on confidentiality.

25.55(7) Complete criminal background, sex offender registry and child and dependent adult abuse registry checks before employment of the advocate. Any person who does not pass these checks is prohibited from being hired, or continuing to serve, as an advocate.

25.55(8) Provide advocate staff to cover the county's caseload at all times, according to, but not limited to, each county's unique number of individuals assigned to the advocate, travel required, types of settings where the individuals reside, services available and extended staff absences.

[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

441—25.56(229) Data collection requirements.

25.56(1) Beginning in 2016 and by December 1 each year, each county shall submit to the department of human services data regarding each individual who received advocate services during the previous state fiscal year.

25.56(2) As defined in rule 441—25.41(225C), the data to be submitted are as follows:

- a. Basic information about the individual, including a unique identifier and county of residence.
- b. Demographic information, including the individual's date of birth, sex, ethnicity, education, and diagnosis made in accordance with the criteria provided in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) (published 2013, with all changes and updates approved by the American Psychiatric Association through September 2023 incorporated herein).
- c. Commitment information, including the date of the individual's initial commitment, type of commitment order, whether a juvenile or adult case, date of commitment and name of treatment facility the individual is committed to, any subsequent changes in treatment facility, and date commitment is terminated.

[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; see Delay note at end of chapter; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20; ARC 8109C, IAB 7/10/24, effective 8/14/24]

441—25.57(229) Quality assurance system. The county shall implement a quality assurance system which:

1. Annually measures and assesses advocates' activities and services.
2. Gathers feedback from stakeholders including individuals using advocate services, family members, court staff, service provider staff, and regional staff regarding advocate services.
3. Implements an internal review of individual records.
4. Identifies areas in need of improvement.
5. Develops a plan to address the areas in need of improvement.
6. Implements the plan and documents the results.

[ARC 2438C, IAB 3/16/16, effective 5/1/16; ARC 4896C, IAB 2/12/20, effective 3/18/20]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 229.

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◊ Two or more ARCs

¹ May 1, 2016, effective date of 25.106 (ARC 2438C) delayed 70 days by the Administrative Rules Review Committee at its meeting held April 8, 2016. At its meeting held June 14, 2016, the Committee delayed the effective date of 25.106 until the adjournment of the 2017 Session of the General Assembly.