



SANDHILLS CENTER

Managing Mental Health, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 25, 2020

Sandhills Center announces further extension of enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rates due to COVID-19

Sandhills Center is extending to its provider network, for the second time, specific rate increases to offset additional costs they have incurred during the coronavirus pandemic.

In March 2020, Sandhills Center temporarily increased Medicaid reimbursement rates 5 to 15 percent for network providers of local behavioral health services. The increases were effective for dates of service April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Then in June, Sandhills Center issued an extension through September 30, 2020.

Today, Sandhills Center announced it will further extend these rate increases through December 31, 2020.

“The continuation of a strong behavioral health care response is critical as our communities continue to experience the impact of COVID-19,” said Victoria Whitt, Sandhills Center Chief Executive Officer.

The temporary Medicaid reimbursement rates include an additional 15 percent for residential services, such as:

- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities
- Behavioral Health Long Term Residential
- Innovations Residential Services (Residential Supports 1-4, Supported Living 1-3 and Supported Living Periodic)
- Community Based Intermediate Care Facilities

The rates also extend an increase of 15 percent for the following Medicaid services:

- Assertive Community Treatment Team
- Community Support Team
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services

All other Medicaid services previously had received a 5 percent increase that was extended through September 30, 2020. As part of today’s announcement, Sandhills Center will sustain those rate increases through December 31, 2020, as well.

The continued reimbursement rate enhancements are made possible only through the additional funding offered at the federal and state level, supported by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The rates may be later continued or amended as funding is available.

“Sandhills Center expects that the added revenue that providers receive from the temporarily enhanced service rates will carry through to supplement direct care staff costs,” Whitt explained. “We also intend for the rate increases to continue to be used to assist in purchasing supplies and other resources needed to maintain quality services during these challenging times. We appreciate the support and partnership we have with our network providers in addressing the behavioral health needs of individuals and families living in the Sandhills Center region.”

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