

SUTS DMC-ODS INFORMATION BULLETIN

No: 2021-2

Date: April 27, 2021

SUBJECT: DHCS & ASAM LOC Certification for AOD Residential Treatment facilities

This SUTS DMC-ODS Information Bulletin summarizes the key provisions of DHCS Information Notice 21-001.

The Information Notice 21-001 (IN 21-001) discusses the requirement for AOD residential facilities to obtain a Level of Care (LOC) designation from either DHCS or ASAM or an equivalent evidence-based standard in order to meet a basic standard of care.

The key provisions are briefly summarized in this Bulletin. **Providers are encouraged to read the attached IN in detail to determine the sections that apply to their agency.**

LOC Designations: There are two LOC designations, one from DHCS and a second, developed through an ASAM & CARF collaboration.

✓ *DHCS designations include:*

- DHCS Level 3.1 - Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Services,
- DHCS Level 3.2 - Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management
- DHCS Level 3.3 - Clinically Managed Population-Specific High Intensity Residential Services
- DHCS Level 3.5 - Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services

✓ *ASAM/CARF designations include:*

- 3.1 - Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Services,
- 3.5 - Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services, and
- 3.7 - Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Services.

Converting provisional LOC designations:

- ✓ Currently, all *adult residential treatment facilities in the SUTS Network* are listed in the DHCS database as having provisional DHCS LOC designations for 3.1, 3.3. or

3.5. These provisional designations must be converted to final designations by certain dates.

- ✓ **No adult SUTS residential provider** is shown in the DHCS database as having a provisional designation for DHCS 3.2. All adult residential providers must obtain a formal designation for DHCS 3.2.
- ✓ The DHCS process is briefly outlined below. Providers are encouraged to read the IN for details. There are different requirements and deadlines for facilities depending on their current designation. The two options shown in italics below apply to SUTS residential providers:
 - Facilities applying for an initial license
 - Licensed facilities without a DHCS provisional LOC designation
 - *Licensed facilities with DHCS provisional LOC designation or a current ASAM LOC certification that **do not plan to change** their LOC designations*
 - *Licensed facilities with DHCS provisional LOC designation or a current ASAM LOC certification that **plan to change** their LOC designations*

Actions required by contracted residential treatment providers:

DHCS recommends that residential treatment facilities who are adding DHCS LOC 3.2 designation follow option 2 shown below:

1. 'Facilities not seeking a change in designation(s) nor adding additional designation(s) shall submit a Current Provider LOC Attestation Statement (DHCS 4031) to DHCS no later than May 31, 2021'.
2. 'Licensed AOD facilities with current DHCS Provisional LOC Designation(s) or with a **current ASAM LOC Certification seeking a change in designation(s)** or adding additional designation(s) shall submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents to DHCS prior to providing the new LOC services. The AOD facility shall not provide the new LOC services until the facility receives DHCS approval for that LOC'.
 - a. Providers who seek to change or add designations to their existing designations must submit supplementary documents with their application:
 - Facility Staffing Data (DHCS 5050), including all facility staff providing direct client services and/or overseeing the program
 - Detailed Monthly Program Staff Schedule •

- Weekly Activities Schedule (DHCS 5086)
- Detailed Weekly Program Activities Schedule
- Program's Level of Care Assessment for Residents

In other words, the recommendation is to follow the application process as outlined in Option #2. The recommendation is based on direct communication with the DHCS Licensing & Certification Division.

Providers are encouraged to contact the email address in the IN for additional questions.

Attachments:

IN 21-001

Required documentation for DHCS Level of Care Designation Flow Chart

For questions, please contact Kakoli Banerjee - kakoli.banerjee@hhs.sccgov.org