



Documenting to Meet Medical Necessity for Level of Care (LOC) Authorization in Substance Use Treatment

Quality Improvement Coordinators - Panel of Presenters

Pauline Casper, MS, CADCI, has worked in the field of substance use for 25 years. She was a Clinical Supervisor of an 88-bed women’s treatment program. She has been a QIC since 2006 with the SUTS QI Division, now called Utilization Mgmt. She has been instructor for over 20 years in the Alcohol and Drug Studies Program at San Jose City College.

Bobbi Rose Morales, LCSW, has worked in the mental health field since 2012 providing direct services to various populations with co-occurring needs. She has been with BHSD since 2014. Prior to her position as a QIC with SUTS QI Division, she was a Lead at the Behavioral Health Call Center. She has worked in various settings including Kaiser Psychiatry, El Camino hospital, locked facilities, school settings and MHUC.

Theresa Hsiao, LMFT, has been with the BHSD since 2005. She began her County career as a licensed clinician at Mental Health Call Center, then she joined SUTS QI team in 2017. Prior to joining the County, she worked at Catholic Charity East Bay for 5 years providing mental health counseling service, and she used to be a high school counselor, book translator, and a volunteer supervisor for a national youth counseling center in Taiwan.

Roxana Alizadeh, Ed.D, LMFT has worked within the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Dept for the last twenty years. Her extensive experience includes work as a licensed clinician at County clinics, QI coordinator for Mental Health and SUTs programs and as a Program Manager II. Roxana’s direct clinical work is wide ranging and includes working at Fair Oaks Mental Health, CWBC as well as in a private practice setting. In her roles as QI coordinator and as Program Manager, Roxana has assisted staff and management with the coordination of care, access and transition to the appropriate behavioral health services. She has also conducted in-service trainings and consultation for department staff and contract agencies. Roxana has collaborated in the development and monitoring of assessment tools to evaluate the different levels of care, and she has served as a consulting clinician to Health Plans on clinical issues, protocol development and improving communication between agencies, and in ensuring patient continuity of care.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Quality Improvement Staff will review Assessment/Authorization for Level Of Care (ALOC) examples submitted by workshop participants. We will work as a group on determining whether the documentation for each ASAM dimension is sufficient for level of care (LOC) decision making and discuss risk rating choices. This will include discussion of additional information needed for LOC determinations, review of documentation tips for each dimension, and focus on individualized, client-specific, and client driven statements when documenting level of care needs. ALOCs for Outpatient as well as Residential services will be included. This training is intended for clinicians with some experience of using ALOC to document LOC determinations, including those who are relatively new to the system of care as well as those with more extensive experience.

*****Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department (SCCBHSD) is approved by the CA Association of Marriage and Family Therapist to sponsor continuing education for Santa Clara County LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs. SCCBHSD maintains responsibility for this program/course and its content. This course meets the qualifications for 3 hours of continuing education credit for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs, as required by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences, The CA Association of Marriage and Family Therapist is the BBS recognized approval agency-Provider # 131775. SCCBHSD also is approved by CA Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) and CA Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators (CAADE) and the Board of Registered Nursing to provide CEUs. Lunch and scheduled breaks during the training do not count toward CEU credit.**

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this training, participants will:

1. Understand the minimum required documentation to substantiate LOC decision.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the link between medical necessity, medical eligibility, and placement decisions.
3. Recognize commonly used expressions and learn how to individualize those statements to each specific client.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of risk ratings for each dimension.

*******If you need support regarding a training that the Learning Partnership provides, please email us at LPTtraining@hhs.sccgov.org.**

*****Please Note: You can download/print your own CEU Certificates online at [sccLearn](https://sccLearn.org) 2 weeks after the training date.**

March 7, 2022

9:00 am-12:00 pm

Registration is at 8:30 am

Via Zoom

Learning Partnership

**1075 E. Santa Clara St., 2nd floor
San Jose, CA 95116**

Our trainings are free-Register online at [sccLearn](https://sccLearn.org).

Target Audience: SCC BHSD staff and contract agency staff