

Hennepin County Children's Mental Health Collaborative

Family COVID-19 Relief Fund

August 6, 2020

The Family COVID-19 Relief Fund Review Committee identified the a number questions that must be answered in order to finalize funding decisions for families and providers (the provider fund review process will follow the family fund review process). CMHC Coordinators are working with Stacy McClendon, the CMHC Executive Committee, and Ann Boerth at the MN Department of Human Services to get answers and/or guidance regarding the use of Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) resources for these purposes.

1. Get clarification around what constitutes mental health services or supports to mental health services. There are lists stated in MN Statute [245.478-245.889](#) that can inform this decision. Specific clarification around what mental health supports are allowable. A number of requests are focused on sensory tools for home, therapy tools, sensory clothing, tools to access telehealth (often times specific to that child), and supports/activities for socialization needs (often times due to the isolation caused by COVID-19).

Background: The review committee is struggling with this question, especially as it relates to supports that meet both basic needs and mental health. These questions have been raised because providers (requesting for families) and families have indicated the lack of basic needs that resulted from COVID-19 is having significant impact on the child's mental health. The review committee is working with Hennepin County and MN Department of Human Services to ensure they are responsive to all MN Statutes related to LCTS funding. Specifically, the review committee is gathering information related to MN Statute [245.4932 \(4\)](#) *the collaborative shall use any enhanced revenue attributable to the activities of the collaborative, including administrative and service revenue, solely to provide mental health services or to expand the operational target population. The lead county or other qualified entity may not use enhanced federal revenue for any other purpose;*

2. Get clarification around the definition of "duplicated services" to ensure LCTS resources are not misused to pay for services or resources that could be accessed elsewhere within the community/county. MN Statute 245.4932 Revenue Enhancement Authority and Responsibility: (4) The collaborative shall use any enhanced revenue attributable to the activities of the collaborative, including administrative and service revenue, solely to provide mental health services or to expand the operational target population.

Background: The review committee is openly struggling with this definition, particularly around how expansive or narrow this can, or should, be interpreted, as well as around whether a one-time gift can count as duplication of an ongoing service. Can the review committee consider the emerging mental health needs (including basic needs, e.g. rent, utilities, food, clothing, etc.) that resulted from the pandemic as an expanded operational target population?

3. What is meant by the expansion of services or expansion of targeted population mean in statute? Does this section of MN statute allow the CMHC review committee more latitude in responding to applications that might include things that contribute to both basic needs AND mental health?

4. Get clarification around use of LCTS resources to pay for co-pays or deductibles (for uninsured or underinsured children) with these grants.

Background: One review committee member stated historically Hennepin County hasn't allowed these expenses be covered by LCTS resources even though the MN Dept. of Human Services stated it was allowable.

5. Liability concerns have been raised by members of the review committee. Review committee members do not want to jeopardize future use of LCTS funds, or impact any collaborative partners, e.g. Family Service Collaborative, County, School Districts, etc. Therefore, the review committee will take a pause in their work until answers or guidance is provided by Hennepin County after discussion with the MN Dept. of Human Services.