

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Contractor Information Notice

To:	BHS Contracted Service Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services
Date:	April 27, 2021
Title	Ensuring Accuracy in Reporting CalOMS Tx Living Arrangement Data

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) contracted service providers adhere to the California Outcomes Measurement System Treatment (CalOMS Tx) [Data Collection Guide](#) for collecting and reporting CalOMS Tx data to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Accuracy in reporting is essential as the information collected for CalOMS is used in federal, state, and county-level reporting, including the CYF BHS Annual Report.

Guidance to Avoid Data Reporting Issues

Section 6.22.2 of the [Data Collection Guide](#) pertains to documenting Current Living Arrangements of clients. This required field provides valuable information about changes in clients' living status between admission and discharge. For example, this information is used to identify client need, the number of homeless individuals seeking services, and whether living arrangements improve after treatment.

There have been consistent errors in the CYF BHS Annual Report data with regards to teens identified as living independently, yet upon further review the youth were living as dependents. **Teen Recovery Centers (TRCs) are urged to review the CalOMS definitions for *Dependent Living* and *Independent Living* to promote accuracy in reporting.**

The relevant CalOMS field asks, “*What are your current living arrangements?*” The three valid values for current living arrangements are listed below. **Entry of values other than those listed below, blank submissions for this field, or incomplete entries will result in an error and the record will be rejected.**

- 1. Homeless** – This includes clients with no permanent residence. The following are examples of homelessness.
 - Shelters
 - Doubled-up situation (living with others temporarily because they have nowhere else to live)
 - Motels due to lack of alternative
 - Couch surfing (friends couches)
 - Living in a vehicle
 Zip code for homeless must be zero (00000) or a five-digit zip code.
- 2. Dependent Living** – This includes clients living in a supervised setting such as, residential institutions, prison, jail, halfway houses or group homes. This category includes children (under age 18) living with parents, relatives, guardians, or in foster care. Clients residing in a Recovery Residence are included in this category.
- 3. Independent Living** – This includes individuals who own their home, rent/live alone, or live with roommates and who do not require supervision. These individuals pay rent or otherwise contribute financially to the cost of the home/apartment. This also includes adult children (age 18 or over) living with parents.

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) or QI Matters at QIMatters.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.