

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Contractor Information Notice

To:	BHS Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Service Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services
Date:	February 17, 2023
Title	Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Best Practices Guide

Background

In October 2020, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Youth Services Section (YSS) released the [Adolescent SUD Best Practices Guide](#) to provide guidance to the system of care on how substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery programs can best serve adolescents, given the differences in developmental and emotional growth between adolescents and adults, and the complex needs of this population, which are markedly different from those of the traditional adult treatment population. The Adolescent SUD Best Practices Guide replaces the previously published Youth Treatment Guidelines, which was last revised in August 2002. The guide is designed to be used in concert with, and not to conflict with or duplicate, other applicable laws, regulations, and standards that govern programs serving adolescents.

The Adolescent SUD Best Practices Guide is divided into four broad sections:

- Overarching Principles of Care
- Service Elements
- Recovery Services
- Administrative Considerations

These sections, defined in detail in the guide, outline best practices as a resource to counties and providers in their continuous efforts to improve federal- and state-funded SUD intervention, treatment, and recovery services for adolescents.

Provider Staff Training and Service Delivery Requirements

Contracted providers serving adolescent populations with SUD treatment and recovery service needs are required to deliver services in alignment with the current DHCS standards, as documented in the Adolescent SUD Best Practices Guide.

Training on the Adolescent SUD Best Practices Guide is required for staff of Teen Recovery Centers, Adolescent Residential SUD programs, and Perinatal Outpatient programs within 60 days of hire and annually, as described in the [DMC-ODS Required Trainings](#). The County has created a [PowerPoint presentation](#) available to all programs through the [BHS Technical Resource Library \(TRL\)](#), *Section 3.1*, which providers are welcome to leverage to meet the training requirement.

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)