

Conceptual Amendment to SB 353

[EXPLANATION: Matters in (1) **bold blue italics** is new language in the amendment; (2) ~~[red-strikethrough]~~ is deleted language in the amendment; (3) **bold green italics** is new language in this conceptual amendment; and (4) ~~[purple-strikethrough]~~ is deleted language in this conceptual amendment.]

Rationale:

- The amendment to Section 1.1(a) ensures that the billing category is specifically designated for university-operated clinics, inclusive of those operated by university-affiliated faculty practice plans which may operate under different Tax IDs but are also academic training settings reinforcing the integration of academic healthcare training with clinical services and supporting evidence-based healthcare initiatives in Nevada, while also fostering the development of a competent behavioral health workforce within the state.
- The amendment to Section 1.1(a)(1) provides consistency within the bill language relating to behavioral health which includes addiction and substance abuse counseling and permits training clinics that serve Medicaid recipients alongside other populations to meet the benchmark without penalizing integrated or community-based care models. The amendment to Section 1.1(a)(2) clarifies that the supervised clinical training provided by these clinics includes all supervised clinical hours required for certification or licensure: pre- and post-graduate degree.
- The amendment to Section 1.1(b) provides two distinct all-inclusive per diem rates for Medicaid reimbursement to reflect two distinct categories of mental and behavioral health services. This differentiation acknowledges the unique nature of psychotherapy and psychological assessments compared to psychiatric services, ensuring that reimbursement rates align with the specific training and supervision needs involved in each category.
- A conceptual language is provided for a definition of “trainees.”

Amend Section 1.1(a) and 1.1(b) as follows:

Section 1. 1. On or before October 1, 2025, the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of the Department of Health and Human Services shall, to the extent that federal participation is available:

- (a) Amend the *Medicaid Services Manual* to create a specific billing category for clinics

operated by an accredited university within the state of Nevada or a faculty practice plan affiliated with an accredited university within the state of Nevada and under the direction of a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS that:

(1) Provide mental *or behavioral* health care *[primarily]* to persons enrolled in Medicaid; and

(2) Provide education and training to *trainees* ~~*[students seeking graduate degrees]*~~ *completing degree or post-degree supervised clinical hours or program requirements* necessary for the issuance of a certificate or license, as applicable, in psychology, marriage and family therapy, clinical professional counseling, social work, counseling persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders, counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling, psychiatry or other professions that specialize in mental or behavioral health.

(b) Establish an all-inclusive per diem rate of reimbursement under Medicaid for *psychotherapy, comprehensive assessment and psychological assessment and testing services provided by trainees and an all-inclusive per diem rate of reimbursement under Medicaid for psychiatric services, inclusive of psychotherapy, provided by trainees* for a visit to a clinic described in paragraph (a) for services provided:

- (1) At the clinic;
- (2) Through a mobile clinic owned or operated by the clinic;
- (3) Outside the clinic to recipients of Medicaid who do not reside in a permanent dwelling or do not have a fixed mailing address; or
- (4) By the clinic through telehealth, as defined in NRS 629.515.

Amend the bill to include a definition of "trainee," such as:

"Trainee" means an individual pursuing licensure as a mental or behavioral health professional who is obtaining the supervised experience required for licensure. This includes:

- (a) **Graduate students** enrolled in an accredited mental or behavioral health

- degree program (e.g., psychology, counseling, social work, MFT) who are participating in practicum or internship training under supervision; and
- (b) **Post-degree individuals** who have completed the academic requirements for licensure and are completing **pre-licensure supervised hours** under the supervision of a qualified licensed professional, as defined by the relevant licensing board.

This designation applies to individuals in training roles who may be eligible to provide services under supervision in accordance with Nevada law and the requirements of the relevant licensing board (e.g., including but not limited to Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists, Social Workers, Psychologists, Alcohol, Drug and Problem Gambling Counselors, Nursing and Board of Medical Examiners).

The term mental or behavioral health professional includes:

- A licensed psychologist
- A licensed marriage and family therapist
- A licensed clinical professional counselor
- A licensed clinical social worker
- An associate in social work, a social worker, a master social worker, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to [chapter 641B](#) of NRS;
- An alcohol and drug counselor or a problem gambling counselor who is certified pursuant to [chapter 641C](#) of NRS;
- An alcohol and drug counselor or a clinical alcohol and drug counselor who is licensed pursuant to [chapter 641C](#) of NRS
- A behavior analyst, assistant behavior analyst or registered behavior technician
- A licensed psychiatrist
- A licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner