

Level of Care Descriptions*

Adults with Severe Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Disorders

**The following descriptions are to be used as a guideline only and are not intended to be exclusionary or all inclusive*

Level 1: SMI-A1

Meets criteria as a severely mentally ill individual, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, but signs and symptoms are generally stable with limited outpatient service support (Medication support only or Outpatient Therapy with Medication support). Individual may require infrequent, low intensity Supports Coordination Assistant or Peer service support but generally mental health needs are met with limited and brief medication or outpatient therapy supports. Functional impairments in self-care, daily living skills, social/interpersonal functioning and/or educational/occupational role may be sporadically evident but there is sufficient self or other support to require little to no assistance in these areas. Risk of harm to self or others is minimal. Services are generally provided in an office based setting and the individual is considered to be generally cooperative with tx. Frequency of services is determined by consumer need and preferences but typically will occur not more than once weekly but not less than once quarterly.

Level 2: SMI-A2

Meets criteria as a severely mentally ill individual, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, with currently mild and relatively stable signs and symptoms. Mild functional impairments in self-care, daily living skills, social/interpersonal functioning and/or educational/occupational role are evident but the individual has the ability to benefit from sustained, offered services and supports to perform and maintain essential activities of daily living. Risk of harm to self or others is low and suicidal or homicidal ideation is only transient, with no recent serious attempts to harm self or others. A combination of office and community based services are appropriate in meeting needs. The individual requires some assistance to link to and coordinate or follow-up with community resources/services/supports, including housing and employment resources, development of social networks, scheduling appointments and meetings, engagement of natural supports, and benefit coordination. Specific outcomes that supports are likely to impact regarding level of functioning and/or remission of presenting symptoms are able to be identified. Frequency of services is determined by consumer need and preferences but typically will occur not more than once weekly but not less than once quarterly.

Level 3: SMI-A3

Meets criteria as a severely mentally ill individual, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, with currently mild and relatively stable signs and symptoms. Moderate functional impairments in self-care, daily living skills, social/interpersonal functioning and/or educational/occupational role are evident. The individual has multiple service needs, has a moderately -high level of vulnerability, requires access to a continuum of mental health services from the PIHP, and/or is unable to independently access and sustain involvement with needed services. The individual has an ongoing, consistent need for all components of TCM, including assessment, planning, linkage, advocacy, coordination and monitoring. There is a low to moderate risk of self or other harm and may be transient suicidal or homicidal ideation but no serious recent attempts and no substantial plan of action to harm. Generally requires a multi-disciplinary system of supports and other professional support are usually involved, as well as para-pro-staff support. Contact can occur as often as

Attachment 1

needed but generally will occur as frequently as once weekly but not less than twice monthly. Contacts are largely community based and the individual.

Level 4: SMI-A4

Meets criteria as a severely mentally ill individual, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, with currently moderate signs and symptoms. Moderate functional impairments in self-care, daily living skills, social/interpersonal functioning and/or educational/occupational role are evident. The individual has multiple service needs, has a high level of vulnerability, requires access to a continuum of mental health services from the PIHP, and/or is unable to independently access and sustain involvement with needed services. The individual has an ongoing, consistent need for all components of TCM, including assessment, planning, linkage, advocacy, coordination and monitoring. There may be a moderate risk of self or other harm and may be transient suicidal or homicidal ideation but no serious recent attempts and no substantial plan of action to harm. Requires a multi-disciplinary system of supports and other professional support are involved, as well as para-pro-staff support. Contact can occur as often as needed, even daily, but will occur as frequently as once weekly and are largely community based.

Level 5: SMI-A5

Meets criteria as a severely mentally ill individual, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. Requires intensive, community based supports who, without ACT, would require more restrictive services and/or settings. Individual has significant impairment of self-care and independent functioning and difficulty managing medications without ongoing support or experience symptoms despite medication treatment adherence. Individual is often at high risk of arrest, incarceration, inpatient or other crisis service use but with ACT can remain safely in the community with intensive, 24/7 supports, requiring a multi-disciplinary team. Service intensity requirements are up to several times daily as needed but no less than several times weekly. Risk to self or others is not immediate but assessment of risk potential is consistently and frequently done.

Level 6: SMI-A6

Meets criteria as a severely mentally ill individual, with or without a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. Signs and symptoms of mental illness are substantial and prominent, resulting in serious neglect of self-care and/or insufficient attention to essential aspects of daily living. Interpersonal functioning is significantly impaired. Ability to maintain adequate nutrition, shelter and other essentials of daily living is dependent on structures and/or prompts available in residential environment. Crisis response is available 24/7. Active treatment and service delivery are expected to occur on a daily basis and support staff are available around the clock. Individual does not present any substantial or immediate risk of harm to self or others though may display transient, intermittent ideation or mild, infrequent self-harm with no serious threat of harm. Individuals require and are involved with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and targeted case management (Low or High level) supports. Frequency of contact is up to several times per week but no less than twice per month.