

**To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Behavioral Health Service Providers**

**Date: October 19, 2017**

**Subject: Revised Behavioral Health Service Provider (BHSP) Licensure Requirements**

**Summary:** The legislation previously exempting certain Mental Health Rehabilitation (MHR) providers from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) behavioral health licensure requirements was repealed. **All MHR providers previously exempted from these requirements must submit a completed application to LDH on or before December 1, 2017, and obtain a BHSP license prior to April 1, 2018, in order to provide behavioral health services.**

Act 33 of the 2017 Louisiana Legislative session repealed La. R.S. 40:2154(A)(14) and enacted La. R.S. 40:2154.1, which now requires the licensure of MHR providers previously exempted by La. R.S. 40:2154(A)(14).

Prior to Act 33, accredited MHR providers meeting all of the following criteria outlined in La. R.S. 40:2154(A)(14) were excused from BHSP licensure requirements:

- 1) Was an accredited MHR provider enrolled in the Louisiana Medicaid Program as of February 28, 2012.
- 2) Was enrolled with the statewide management organization for the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership as of March 1, 2012.
- 3) Maintains continuous, uninterrupted accreditation through an approved accreditation organization.
- 4) Maintains continuous, uninterrupted enrollment with the statewide management organization for the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership.

Act 33 reversed this licensing exemption for certain MHR providers and replaced it with La. R.S. 40:2154.1, which requires said providers to obtain BHSP licensure by April 1, 2018. Completed license applications must be received by the LDH Health Standards Section on or before December 1, 2017. Please note: licensing requirements for other MHR providers have not changed.

Complete BHSP licensing regulations, BHSP licensing applications and other relevant information is available at <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/7950/catid/154>

Any questions regarding these changes should be directed to Desiree Castello with the LDH Health Standards Section at (225) 342-0158 or [Desiree.Castello@la.gov](mailto:Desiree.Castello@la.gov).