



**Bulletin Title: Assessment Tools to Facilitate the Integration of Behavioral Health Services into the District's Managed Care Program**  
**Bulletin ID: 135**  
**Issued Date: September 28, 2023**

The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) are partnering to fully integrate behavioral health services into the District's managed care program to support whole person care, effective April 1, 2024. DBH and DHCF are working closely with DBH certified providers and are committed to public involvement in decisions that affect access to and delivery of high-quality services. DBH will issue bulletins to memorialize decisions which impact DBH consumers, clients and DBH certified providers. This bulletin pertains to functional assessment tools that DBH-certified providers will be required to use effective October 1, 2023.

**a. Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale and Pre-School and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale**

Currently, DBH- certified providers utilize the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) (for youth ages six through twenty) and the Pre-School and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale (PECFAS) (for children ages three through five) as both the outcome tool for children and youth receiving services, and as part of the prior authorization package for services. Following the Managed Care Organization (MCO) integration of behavioral health services, DBH-certified providers will use the CAFAS/PECFAS functional assessment tools as part of their Diagnostic Assessment service. DBH will maintain responsibility for all CAFAS/PECFAS training for providers and system access for completion of the tool. In addition, DBH will monitor child/youth outcomes and provider performance. DBH will share data with DHCF on an annual basis. DBH will continue to monitor children and youth receiving Mental Health Rehabilitation Services (MHRS) whose acuity was initially high but who had significant improvements in functioning on their most recent CAFAS as an agency Key Performance Indicator.

**b. Daily Living Activities-20**

DBH-certified MHRS providers have utilized the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) to assess levels of care for adults receiving mental health services. Effective March 1, 2023, DBH adopted the Daily Living Activities-20 (DLA-20) as the Department-designated functional assessment and Level of Care tool for adult MHRS, Free Standing Mental Health Clinics and Crisis Services consumers. The Department will not enforce use of the DLA-20 until October 1, 2023 to allow providers time to practice using the DLA-20. In the interim, providers may utilize either the LOCUS or the DLA-20 as a level of care tool for adult consumers as part of their prior authorization package. By September 30, 2023, DBH-certified MHRS, Free Standing Mental Health Clinics and Crisis Services providers must ensure they have at least one (1) DLA-20-certified trainer on staff, configure their electronic health records so that the DLA-20 is accessible and review DBH Policy 300.1A, Level of Care Determinations for Adults in MHRS.

Effective October 1, 2023:

1. DBH-certified adult MHRS providers, Crisis Services providers and Free Standing Mental Health Clinics will utilize the DLA-20 as a standardized functional assessment tool for adults receiving services; and
2. DBH-certified MHRS providers, Crisis Services providers and Free Standing Mental Health Clinics will utilize the DLA-20 as part of their prior authorization package for any adult consumer receiving the following services:
  - a. Assertive Community Treatment: DLA-20 score of 4.0 and below;
  - b. Rehabilitative Services (Day Services): DLA-20 score of 5.0 and below;
  - c. Residential Crisis Stabilization (Mental Health Community Residence Facility): DLA-20 score of 3.0 and below;
  - d. Intensive Day Treatment: DLA-20 score of 3.0 and below;
  - e. Recovery Support/Community Support: DLA-20 6.0 and below;
  - f. Transitional Planning: DLA-20 score of 4.0 and below;
  - g. Crisis Beds: DLA-20 score of 4.0 and below; and
  - h. Partial Hospitalization: DLA-20 score of 4.0 and below.

**c. Substance Use Disorder Tools and Assessments**

Effective October 1, 2023, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery providers must utilize the Co-Triage as the Department-designated level of care tool and the Continuum as the Department-designated comprehensive assessment tool for adult SUD clients. Youth SUD providers must utilize the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Initial as the functional assessment tool for youth receiving SUD services and supports, effective October 1, 2023. Providers must work with their electronic health record vendor to ensure that they secure a license for each of these assessments, effective October 1, 2023.

Please contact Jean Moise, Deputy Director, Adult Services ([jean.moise@dc.gov](mailto:jean.moise@dc.gov)) or Meghan Sullivan ([Meghan.sullivan@dc.gov](mailto:Meghan.sullivan@dc.gov)) with questions about this bulletin.