

Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission Case Management & Clinical Services Policy & Procedure Manual	CMCS # 19 Policy: State of PA Alignment with The ASAM Criteria, 2013
Most Current Revision: 07/10/2023 Effective Date: 07/01/2020	Page: 1 of 2

I. Purpose:

To ensure that LCDAC and their contracted service providers are aligned with The ASAM Criteria, 2013 as a means to promote individualized, person centered care and treatment occurs AND is documented throughout the individual’s treatment and non-treatment related episodes of care.

II. Procedure:

In March 2017, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs announced that it would phase-out the Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria (PCPC) and transition to the nationally recognized American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria. The decision was made to transition to ASAM because it is a stronger clinical placement tool that allows clinicians to develop a treatment plan and support services that more appropriately meet an individual’s needs. The ASAM Criteria is a placement tool and an overall guide for clinical care created by the American Society of Addiction Medicine. It was developed to establish a national standard for care by creating individualized, results-based treatment plans for individuals seeking treatment for a substance use disorder. It is currently used by more than 30 states and was the model for the PCPC.

Transitioning to The ASAM Criteria would strengthen Pennsylvania’s treatment landscape by:

- Implementing a multi-dimensional evidence-based placement system that focuses on responding to an individual’s needs and is outcome driven;
- Assessing risk and imminent danger for both mental health and substance use disorders;
- Strengthening a client-centered and recovery-focused approach to treatment that draws upon an individual’s strengths and resources for recovery and readiness to change;
- Promoting greater clinical judgment in assessing client need and moving beyond a checklist for placement;
- Providing principles and guidance for working with managed care companies to resolve placement issues;
- Achieving congruence with the adolescent placement criteria that already use The ASAM Criteria;
- Aligning with commercial insurers that use The ASAM Criteria to evaluate placement decisions for covered patients;
- Complementing DDAP’s new treatment data system, which is equipped for The ASAM Criteria;
- Joining the 30+ states that currently use The ASAM Criteria and allowing for national data reporting and assessment of treatment quality among these 30+ states.

While DDAP initially planned to create a PA version of The ASAM Criteria training, copyright restrictions prohibited this. Therefore, the official training entity recommended by ASAM, The Change Companies’ training partner, *Train for Change*, provides statewide trainings to meet the need of this transition.

For those individuals who have not previously received The ASAM Criteria 3rd Edition training and for whom completion/approval of The ASAM Criteria is an essential function of their daily job duties (e.g., counselors, case managers doing level of care determinations, utilization review specialists, those actively determining authorizations/continued stay reviews, etc.), DDAP is requiring the ASAM Criteria 3rd Edition Skill Building Training.

DDAP will continue to identify those nuances unique to the PA system of care, including a comparison of the ASAM criteria and licensing regulations, licensing alerts, and contractual requirements outlined in the DDAP Manuals. These considerations will likely be addressed and communicated through a mandatory but brief online supplemental training.

Contracted providers shall adhere to the ASAM requirements as outlined in the ASAM Criteria, 2013 including admission criteria, discharge criteria, interventions, types of services, hours of clinical care, and credentials of staff as set forth in the ASAM transition requirements found at:
<https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Professionals/Pages/ASAM-Transition.aspx>.

LCDAC will due its due diligence to keep the contracted service providers apprised as more information becomes available; however it falls to the contracted service providers to remain current with ALL changes/updates/revisions/etc. related to the State of Pennsylvania Alignment to The ASAM Criteria, 2013.

Approved By:  07102023
Rick Kastner LCDAC Executive Director Date