

COMPLIANCE BULLETIN

Fresno County Behavioral Health

Publication Date: 12/23/2024

POLICY NOTICE

- ❖ Policy Being Summarized
Clinical Candidates
- ❖ CB-035
- ❖ Policy created by:
Bulletins and News,
Compliance Bulletins, DBH
Plans
- ❖ This notice is intended for:
 - ☒ DBH Operated MH Programs
 - ☒ DBH Operated SUD Programs
 - ☒ DBH Administration
 - ☒ Contract MH Providers
 - ☒ Contract SUD Providers
 - ☐ Prescribers

Guidance related to the Credentialing of Clinical Candidates. DHCS provided direction to the Mental Health Plans and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems regarding the use of Clinical Candidates via Behavioral Health Information Notice 24-023 (BHIN 24-023) [BHIN 24-023 Standards for Specific Behavioral Health Provider Types and Services; Amends Relevant Sections Within Title 9 and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations \(CCR\)](#). and State Plan Amendment 23-026 (SPA 23-0026) [CA SPA 23-0026 Approval](#).

Identification of Clinical Candidate – A Clinical Social Worker (CSW), Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), or Professional Clinical Counselor (PCC), who has graduated from a master's program and are completing their required hours for licensure and register with the BBS as an associate. The "90 Day Rule" set by the BBS allows **candidates** to count supervised experience toward licensure when gained during the window of time between the degree award date and the issue date of the associate registration number if BBS receives the associate application within 90 days of the degree award date.

Please see additional guidance from BBS [Board of Behavioral Sciences - 90-Day Rule](#). This guidance entails instructions related to the need for fingerprinting.

Per SPA 23-0026, for a social worker candidate, marriage and family therapist candidate, or professional counselor candidate, "registered" means a candidate for licensure who is registered or has submitted a registration application and is in the process of obtaining registration in accordance with the criteria established by the corresponding state licensing authority for the purpose of acquiring the experience required for licensure, in accordance with applicable

statutes and regulations. And "waivered" means a candidate who was recruited for employment from outside California, whose experience is sufficient to gain admission to the appropriate licensing examination and who has been granted a professional licensing waiver approved by the Department of Health Care Services to the extent authorized under state law.

Of note, Per BHIN 24-023, services rendered by CSW, MFT, and PCC candidates completing supervised experience can be reimbursed by Medi-Cal while their BBS application is pending. **In the event the BBS application is not approved by BBS, the services provided by the candidate are not Medi-Cal reimbursable.**

As Clinical Candidates are identified as "registered", they will use the following taxonomy under their NPI registry:

Clinical Social Worker Candidate **104100000X**

Marriage and Family Therapist Candidate **106H00000X**

Professional Clinical Counselor Candidate **101YP2500X**

Credentialing will require the name and credentials of the supervisor. The supervisor **MUST** also be credentialed with Fresno County Behavioral Health.