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To: MHRT/C's, Community Support Providers, BHH Providers and Interested Stakeholders
From: Leticia Huttman, Employment and Workforce Development Manager, SAMHS
Date: September 12, 2019
Re: Phasing in the Redesigned MHRT/Community Certificate Program

September is here and it's time to roll out the updated MHRT/C knowledge competencies. After working with many stakeholders to develop these competencies and transform the program's infrastructure, we're excited to implement these new competencies.

As a reminder, there are eight domains, each with a unique set of competencies. To see the full list, follow this url: http://cfl-muskie.org/images/files/docs/MHRT/Final_MHRT-C_Competerencies_20170815.pdf. Domains 1-3 are considered priority domains.

So what does this mean and for who?

What this means is that the Muskie Center for Learning (CFL) will begin reviewing MHRT/C certification applications against the newly implemented 2019 competencies.

Current Provisional MHRT/C Certificate Holders

Certificate holders already in the process of earning full certification with either a Provisional Level A or B, or completed coursework under the 2008 Guidelines, should submit their completed coursework to achieve full certification. CFL staff will review each application against the 2008 competencies, as well as against the 2019 competencies, to determine the most expedient path to certification. CFL staff will work with applicants through the transition to the new MHRT/C certification program.

Current Full MHRT/C Certificate Holders

All full MHRT/C certificates (including MHRT II, III, IV and C) should now have a two-year expiration period listed on their MHRT/C certificate. Anyone with a full MHRT/C certificate **without an expiration date** needs to contact the CFL office immediately with their contact information to have a new full MHRT/C reissued. The email to use is

updatemhrtcontactinfo@cfl-muskie.org

Beginning in 2020, full MHRT/C certificates without expiration dates, or those certificates whose dates have expired, will not be considered valid certificates as required for reimbursement of services.

New MHRT/C Certification Applicants

Many colleges and universities across the state are rolling out degree and certificate programs this fall approved to meet the 2019 MHRT/C competency requirements. To see which colleges

and universities offer approved courses and programs, visit <http://cfl-muskie.org/index.php/mhrt-community-certification-program-updates/17-mhrt-c/145-approved-programs> . Students completing those programs will meet the requirements for MHRT/C certification. Other academic programs are still reviewing and revising courses to align with the 2019 competencies and may run parallel tracks through the transition. In these instances, the continuation of the courses approved under the 2008 competencies are to accommodate students who had already started coursework towards certification. If students have any questions they should seek guidance from their academic advisors.

New Provisional MHRT/C Certification Applicants

In the updated MHRT/C program there is *one* level of provisional certification, valid for two years. In order to qualify for a Provisional MHRT/C under the 2019 Guidelines, an applicant must complete **one** the following requirements:

1. Hold a four-year related degree **or** higher and
 - a. Complete Maine's Mental Health System 101 online module
2. Hold a two-year related degree, **or** have 30 related academic hours and
 - a. Complete Maine's Mental Health System 101 online module
 - b. Satisfy at least 1 priority competency domain, plus 1 other domain
3. Hold an unrelated degree **or** high school diploma **or** its equivalent and
 - a. Have a minimum of one-year full-time direct service work in the behavioral health field
 - b. Complete Maine's Mental Health System 101 online module
 - c. Satisfy 3 priority competency domains plus 1 other

You can find the link to the Maine's Mental Health System 101 online module, as well as a glossary of terms, on the MHRT/C webpage, cfl-muskie.org

Another Way to Meet the Requirements for Certification

An individual can use documented work experience in the adult behavioral health field to meet the competency domains. This creates a potential career ladder for individuals working in the field with an MHRT I. Up to four domains can be credited with work experience. For more information, see the Credit for Work Experience section of the CFL website.

Keep an eye on the website <http://cfl-muskie.org/> for updates to the MHRT/C certification program.