



# PROVIDER ALERT



Alert #5 – 2008 – 2-13 – HCAL, HCYAB, HCCH, HCNE, HCCMP, HCNC

## **Notification Regarding Revision of the Life Domain Format For Psychiatric/Psychological Evaluations: Initial and Continued Care - 3rd Edition**

Community Care Behavioral Health Organization is issuing this Alert to inform all Children's Behavioral Health Providers and Evaluators (Psychologists and Psychiatrists) that the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has issued a revised version (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) of the "Life Domain Format for Psychiatric/Psychological Evaluations: Initial and Continued Care" document.

### Highlights of Changes to the Document:

- 1) An expansion under 'Strengths' to include evidence of resilience.
- 2) Addition of an entire section inquiring about trauma exposure.
- 3) Some additional developmental information and information about pregnancy and prenatal care, and some additional, explicit information related to medical history.
- 4) Further information related to medication history.
- 5) Additional emphasis on cultural and spiritual considerations.
- 6) Additional information on substance use and abuse, including the extent of awareness and recognition by the youth.
- 7) More explicit expectation that recommendations be offered related to service tapering and transition or discontinuation.

**Effective February 15, 2008, Community Care Behavioral Health Organization is requiring that all Best Practice Psychological and Psychiatric Evaluations be completed following the format as described in the revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Life Domain Format. The document is attached to this provider alert. The document can also be accessed through the following link:**

<http://www.ccbh.com/pdfs/Providers/healthchoices/forms/All%20Counties/BHRS/LifeDomainFormatPsychEvaluations.pdf>

**Providers will have approximately six months to come into compliance with this new expectation.**

**Community Care will be modifying the Best Practice Evaluation Quality Review Indicators to reflect the new and enhanced components of the evaluation to be used in future quality reviews of Best Practice Evaluations.**

**Care Managers will complete a Provider Benchmark Indicator form for those providers/evaluators that submit Best Practice Evaluations that do not include the new and enhanced components beginning September 1, 2008.**

If you have questions related to this clarification please contact your provider relations representative.