

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 240, MS 2-13
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1897



July 16, 2020

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: NEW SERVICE CODE FOR INTENSIVE TRANSITION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS TRANSITIONING FROM INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASES INTO ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY SETTINGS

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide information on the new service code for intensive transition services for individuals transitioning from institutions for mental diseases into alternative community settings. Enclosed is the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) November 1, 2018, correspondence regarding intensive transition services. The new service code and description are as follows:

Intensive Transition Services***Service Code: 026***

Description: A regional center shall classify a vendor as a provider of intensive transition services if the vendor is an agency which employs staff who possess the skill, training and education necessary to support individuals with complex service needs during the transition process from a highly restrictive setting to a less restrictive living situation in the community. Intensive services may also be provided to enable individuals to maintain a less restrictive living situation in the community when they are at high risk of being placed in highly restrictive settings.

The scope of intensive transition services includes, but is not limited to, conducting risk assessments; developing comprehensive Person Centered Plans; making recommendations to planning teams; providing intensive preparatory services to individuals and their Interdisciplinary Teams; training and evaluation pre-transition and during transition as identified in the Individual Program Plan; supporting individuals with complex service needs during the transition process; and training families and community-based service providers.

The services included within this service code shall be provided by transition teams that include three or more of the following professionals: Behavior Analyst, Nurse, Medical Doctor, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, or Social Worker.

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Merakey is the statewide provider for intensive transition services for individuals transitioning from institutions for mental diseases into alternative community settings, and has been providing this service since November 2018, when it was first established. Merakey has offices in Northern and Southern California. All referrals for this service will continue through Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) and San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC).

If, through the Interdisciplinary Team process, it is decided that intensive transition services are appropriate, the regional center should contact either ACRC or SG/PRC, as indicated below, regarding the referral process. All referral packets will be prioritized by ACRC or SG/PRC and the Department before referrals are sent to Merakey.

ACRC Contact for Referrals

Christy Iwasa
IMDStepdown@altaregional.org
(916) 978-6586

For referrals from:

Alta California Regional Center
Central Valley Regional Center
Far Northern Regional Center
Golden Gate Regional Center
North Bay Regional Center
Redwood Coast Regional Center
Regional Center of the East Bay
San Andreas Regional Center
Valley Mountain Regional Center

SG/PRC Contact for Referrals

Joshua Trevino
IMDStepdown@sgprc.org
(909) 784-6716

For referrals from:

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Frank D Lanterman Regional Center
Harbor Regional Center
Inland Regional Center
Kern Regional Center
North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Regional Center of Orange County
San Diego Regional Center
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
Tri-Counties Regional Center
Westside Regional Center

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If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Angela Munoz at (916) 698-9736, or angela.munoz@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Amy Westling, Association of Regional Center Agencies

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1958



November 1, 2018

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: NEW INTENSIVE TRANSITION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS
TRANSITIONING FROM INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASES
INTO ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY SETTINGS

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform regional centers about a new service available to support individuals transitioning from Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) to alternative community placements. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) released its [Plan for Crisis and Other Safety Net Services](#) in May 2017, which included developing intensive transition services for individuals in IMDs or those at risk of admission to IMDs.

DDS convened a group of regional centers to develop this service option and as a result, collaborated with Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) and San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC) to post a joint Request for Proposal (RFP) in May 2018 to secure a qualified agency to provide the services. Merakey was selected as the statewide provider and they have established offices in Northern and Southern California. Merakey is one of the largest community-based, non-profit education and human services organizations in the country. They have been serving individuals with intellectual disabilities and co-occurring mental illness and supporting the transition of individuals from mental health hospitals since the late 1980s.

The scope of intensive transition services includes, but is not limited to, conducting risk assessments, providing intensive preparatory services to individuals and their Interdisciplinary Team (IDT), training and evaluation pre-transition and during transition, as identified in the Individual Program Plan (IPP), and training families and community-based service providers, as appropriate. Please see the enclosed brochure for additional details. Funds for this project were allocated to ACRC and SG/PRC and will cover the start-up and development of the Intensive Transition Service, as well as the initial provision of services. Plans are underway to determine which service code(s) will be used for this service after the initial allocation is exhausted. This information will be shared in a future communication.

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If, through the IDT process, it is decided that intensive transition services are appropriate, the regional center should contact either ACRC or SG/PRC as indicated below regarding the referral process. All referral packets will be reviewed and prioritized by ACRC or SG/PRC and DDS before referrals are sent to Merakey. Upon acceptance of a referral, Merakey's Program Director will contact the referring regional center within three business days to arrange a meeting with the individual and their team.

Contact for Alta California Regional Center
Deveon Remaker at dremaker@altaregional.org or (916) 978-6303

- Alta California Regional Center
- Central Valley Regional Center
- Far Northern Regional Center
- Golden Gate Regional Center
- North Bay Regional Center
- Redwood Coast Regional Center
- Regional Center of the East Bay
- San Andreas Regional Center
- Valley Mountain Regional Center

Contact for San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
Maria Vargas at mvargas@sgprc.org or (909) 764-5479

- Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
- Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
- Harbor Regional Center
- Inland Regional Center
- Kern Regional Center
- North Los Angeles County Regional Center
- Regional Center of Orange County
- San Diego Regional Center
- San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
- South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
- Tri-Counties Regional Center
- Westside Regional Center

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Dr. LeeAnn Christian, Safety Net Program Manager, at (916) 653-3208, or by email at, leeann.christian@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

Enclosure

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Chief Counselors
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies

Intensive Transition Services Team

About

Merakey is a leading developmental, behavioral health and education non-profit provider offering a breadth of integrated services to individuals and communities across the country.

We leverage our size and expertise to develop innovative solutions and new models of care to meet the needs of individuals, their families, public and private healthcare funders and community partner organizations.

We recognize that complex needs require a holistic approach. With our experience, expertise and compassion, we empower everyone within our communities to reach their fullest potential.

Mission

Enriching lives by providing exceptional services through an individualized approach.

Vision

Creating communities where everyone is empowered to take meaningful steps toward reaching their fullest potential.

For more information about Merakey, please visit www.merakey.org.



Find Out More



Maria Vargas
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
P: 909-764-5479 | F: 909-706-1239
mvargas@sgprc.org



Deveon Remaker
Alta California Regional Center
P: 916-978-6303 | F: 916-978-6270
dremaker@altaregional.org



Merakey
2934 East Garvey Avenue South
Suite 206-A
West Covina, California, 91791



Merakey
1610 Arden Way
Suite 273
Sacramento, CA 95815



www.merakey.org



What is the Intensive Transition Services Team?

The Intensive Transition Service (ITS) Team provides individuals who are dually diagnosed with a developmental disability and mental illness, and possibly other co-occurring disorders, with person-centered, recovery oriented, and holistic support. Each ITS Team is comprised of specialists who understand the complexity of supporting dually diagnosed individuals in the community, particularly those who are transitioning into community-based residential settings from a higher level of care. The team of specialists includes:

- licensed program director
- psychiatric provider
- registered nurse
- transition coordinators
- BCBA
- administrative support

ITS provides an average of 18 to 24 months of intensive treatment with individuals moving through four different phases:

- Pre-Transition
- Transition
- ITS Team Support
- Ongoing Treatment

ITS supports youth, adolescents, and adults who are dually-diagnosed with a developmental disability and a co-occurring mental health diagnosis. Individuals we support are those who are identified by Regional Centers to be transitioned from IMDs to a community-based living environment.

The Team utilizes care coordination, evidence-based assessments / treatment modalities, and deliberating responsibilities during transition phases to ensure individuals and their supports are prepared, equipped, and engaged. The Team advocates for the individual's rights and needs, while providing support to those who will help them in the community.

The initial assessment is composed of four parts:

- physical/medical
- psychiatric
- social
- functional/behavioral

Each section is completed using interviews with individual, family and/or staff, and record review.

If an individual struggles to maintain community tenure, ITS will provide:

- staff training/supports
- education
- treatment/programmatic recommendations
- behavioral/physical health wellness interventions
- additional care coordination
- crisis intervention
- hospital diversion
- other recommendations to reach community stabilization

ITS staff complete home and provider readiness assessments and recommendations. This methodology puts the individual and their supports at the center of care, participating in making decisions on their recovery.

ITS Teams keep staff to participant ratios low in order to provide high quality, person-centered care. The team provides services 24/7/365, including crisis/on-call services after normal business hours.

Where are services provided?

For individuals transitioning out of IMD settings, the ITS Team will meet with the individual and their supports to assess their strengths, needs, and goals for recovery and community living. The Team also partners with the community-based residential settings that individuals will be moving, to ensure that the supports have all the training and services they need.

The Team works with supports and the individual to find the appropriate treatment modalities, interventions, and services to help the person stay in the community and work toward their own recovery goals.

Services provided where the individual is at the time of need include:

- the IMDs
- Regional Centers
- Merakey offices
- community residential placement
- other local community settings

Referrals for ITS are determined and completed by the Regional Centers, and then sent directly to Merakey.

The Regional Centers for the Northern California Team are:

- Alta California
- Far Northern
- Redwood Coast
- North Bay
- East Bay
- Golden Gate
- San Andreas
- Central Valley
- Valley Mountain

The Regional Centers for the Southern California Team are:

- San Gabriel/Pomona
- Inland
- San Diego
- Orange County
- Harbor
- Westside
- Kern
- South Central Los Angeles
- North Los Angeles
- Eastern Los Angeles
- Frank D. Lanterman
- Tri Counties