MEMORANDUM

TO:    District Superintendents

FROM: Virgie Chambers
       Deputy Superintendent, District Operations and Support

DATE: March 26, 2020

RE:    COVID 19 – Medicaid Crisis Management Services

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and temporary school closures, the South Carolina Department of Education is reminding school districts that telephonic crisis management services are available to Medicaid enrolled providers of Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS).

The following school districts are able to use RBHS crisis management services to serve Medicaid eligible students:

- Berkeley,
- Florence 1,
- Florence 2,
- Florence 4,
- Georgetown,
- Kershaw,
- Marion,
- Spartanburg 6,
- Spartanburg 7,
- York 4 (Fort Mill), and
- Sumter.

Providers must still adhere to the requirements outlined in the RBHS Medicaid Manual. If the school district has RBHS staff on call to handle crisis calls, they must ensure the following:
• Crisis management face-to-face or telephonic services can only be used when the medical necessity for a crisis is met.
• Crisis management must not be used to check-in on clients, or provide therapy or case management services, etc. It must be used when a parent/guardian calls the school because the child is in crisis and needs assistance.
• Staff must follow the crisis management documentation guidelines listed in the RBHS Medicaid Manual.
• Crisis management must be billed according to the Local educational agency (LEA) fee schedule.

All districts, not just those eligible to utilize RBHS, should note that if students or persons in the community require a psychiatric assessment, telepsychiatry services are available through the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) and the Medical University of South Carolina. Finally, all South Carolinians are able to access Community Crisis Response and Intervention resources 24/7. This service is funded by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and provided by SCDMH. The contact number is 833-DMH-CCRI or 833-364-2274.

Should you have further questions regarding Medicaid reimbursement for school-based behavioral health services, please contact Dee Drayton, Team Lead for Medicaid Quality Assurance in the Office of Medicaid Services at ddrayton@ed.sc.gov.