DHS Responses to Public Comments Regarding Clarify Hospital Policy to include Acute Crisis Units for hospital and CAH

Laura H. Tyler, PhD, LPC, Chief Executive Officer

Ozark Guidance

Comment: How does the language proposed in 218.400 for Hospital/Critical Access Hospital (CAH)/End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) satisfy the following?

“Acute Crisis Unit” means a program of non-hospital emergency services for mental health and substance use disorder crisis stabilization, including, but not limited to, observation, evaluation, emergency treatment and referral, when necessary, for inpatient psychiatric or substance use disorder treatment services. This service is limited to individual sites which are certified by the Arkansas Department of Human Services, (DHS) or facilities operated by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Acute Crisis Units shall be freestanding facilities that must adhere to the following:

1.) Have 16 beds or less
2.) Be independently certified by DHS outside of an existing Hospital”

“Provider” means an entity that is certified by DHS as an Acute Crisis Unit and enrolled by DMS as a behavioral Health Agency.”

Response: The acute crisis units proposed in this rule will follow inpatient hospital rules under the authority of Arkansas Department of Health. Because these Units will be in hospitals, the DHS licensure will not be required, but ADH licensure will be a required component.

Comment:

Will a CAH that includes a ACU be exempt from DHS guidelines?

Response: The CAHs with an ACU will follow DHS inpatient hospital guidelines.

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Public hearing held remotely 10-23-2020 at 3:00p.m.

Comment: “Will these critical access hospitals have to be certified by DHS's (indiscernible)?

Response: No. They are licensed under the authority of Arkansas Department of Health.
Comment: “If so, is there a you know, how will the language and the definition for "acute crises unit," which requires that these be free-standing facilities, be addressed?
Response: Arkansas Department of Health licensure will be utilized.