

Provider Update:

Summary: The legislation which previously allowed exempt Mental Health Rehabilitation (MHR) providers from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDH) licensing requirements was repealed. All MHR exempt providers must submit an application to LDH on or before December 1, 2017 and obtain BHSP license prior to April 1, 2018, in order to provide behavioral health services.

Act 33 – Removal of License Exemption for Certain MHR Providers

HSS has posted [Act 33](#) to their website, which **removes the exemption** for legacy MHR agencies that met certain criteria. HSS has also posted a [Memo to Behavioral Health Service Providers](#), which notifies providers of the pertinent parts of Act 33.

Please note that with the passage of Act 33 of 2017, this exemption from licensing for these mental health rehab providers has been removed, and each mental health rehab provider will be required to submit a complete licensing application by December 1, 2017, and become licensed by April 1, 2018. Information regarding which MHR providers apply for a license as of December 1, 2017, will be provided by LDH.

Effective June 3, 2017, Act 33 enacted La. R.S. 40:2154.1 requiring the licensure of accredited mental health rehabilitation providers; and repealed La. R.S. 40:2154 (A) (14) that had allowed for the exemption of certain mental health rehabilitation providers. Act 33 states the following:

La. R.S. 40:2154.1. Accredited mental health rehabilitation providers; licensure required

- A. Any healthcare provider that meets all of the following criteria is hereby required to obtain a license in accordance with the provisions of this Part prior to April 1, 2018, in order to provide behavioral health services:
- (1) Was an accredited mental health rehabilitation provider enrolled in the Louisiana Medicaid program as of February 28, 2012
 - (2) Was enrolled with the state wide management organization for the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership as of March 1, 2012
 - (3) Maintains continuous, uninterrupted accreditation through an approved accreditation organization
 - (4) Maintains continuous, uninterrupted enrollment with the statewide management organization for the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership

If you would like to verify the licensing status of any existing BH provider or have any other questions regarding provider licensing status, please contact Desiree Castello via email at Desiree.Castello@la.gov or by telephone at 225-342-0158.