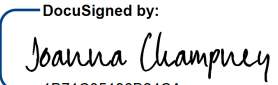


**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b><u>POLICY TITLE:</u></b> Medical Director Qualifications	<b><u>POLICY #:</u></b> DSAMH055
<b><u>PREPARED BY:</u></b> Policy and Compliance	<b><u>DATE ISSUED:</u></b> 09/26/2023
<b><u>RELATED POLICIES:</u></b>	<b><u>REFERENCE:</u></b>
<b><u>DATES REVIEWED:</u></b> 09/26/2023 12/19/2024	<b><u>DATES REVISED:</u></b> 09/20/2023 12/04/2024
<b><u>APPROVED BY:</u></b>  <b><u>DATE APPROVED:</u></b> 12/23/2024   7:20 AM PST	<b><u>NOTES:</u></b> (Check all that apply: See definitions F-J) <input type="checkbox"/> DSAMH Internal Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DSAMH Operated Program <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DSAMH State Providers <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware Psychiatric Center <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Use Policy (Defined in scope)

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to identify the minimum requirements for medical directors for all applicable levels of care within the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health's regulatory authority.
- II. **POLICY STATEMENT:** To ensure client safety through proper medical care and oversight for specific levels of care which require a medical director, a medical director must meet the minimum qualifications, as defined in this policy.
- III. **DEFINITIONS:**  
**"Medical director"** means a physician, licensed to practice medicine in the jurisdiction in which the program is located, who assumes responsibility for administering all medical services performed by the program, either by performing them directly or by delegating specific responsibility to authorized program physicians and healthcare professionals functioning under the medical director's direct supervision.  
  
**"Physician"** means a person with a Medical Degree or Doctor of Osteopathy degree; licensed to practice medicine in the State of Delaware and has prescribing privileges under the laws of the State of Delaware.
- IV. **SCOPE:** All DSAMH-licensed levels of care that require a medical director.
- V. **EXCEPTIONS:** This policy does not replace or negate any contractual obligations or other regulatory authority requirements a provider may have outside of DSAMH requirements. Any provider regulated by DSAMH intending to hire a medical director without these minimum credentials would require a specific written, time-limited waiver approved by the Director of DSAMH. This would only be approved for limited and exceptional short-term circumstances requiring emergency coverage. Programs under the PROMISE waiver are not included in this policy.

VI. **PROCEDURES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. Upon hire, all medical directors supervising SUD services from ASAM level 2.0 to 3.7 and ASAM level 1.0 OTPs must have:
  - 1. Completed an accredited residency program and meet one of the following:
    - a. Obtained addiction credentialing in addiction medicine or in addiction psychiatry, or
    - b. At least one (1) year of full-time documented experience in the provision of services to persons who are addicted to alcohol or other drugs, including the treatment of narcotic addiction by prescribing a narcotic drug.
  - 2. Board certification in their primary medical specialty. DSAMH recommends board certification in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry.

VII. **POLICY LIFESPAN:** This policy will be reviewed annually or until new regulations are published.

VIII. **RESOURCES:** N/A