



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

Court Services Division

Michigan Hall of Justice

P.O. Box 30048

Lansing, Michigan 48909

Phone (517) 373-4835

Jennifer Warner
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2020

TO: District Court Judges
District Court Administrators
District Court Probation Officers

FROM: Michele Muscat, Management Analyst

RE: SARF – Designated Agencies

Since 2013, courts licensed by the Bureau of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) as Screening, Assessment, Referral, and Follow-Up (SARF)-designated agencies have been required to fill out licensure applications, and in later years required to pay a \$500 annual fee and participate in LARA's required site surveys. Many courts learned during previous site visit surveys that their staff did not possess credentials acceptable by the specific statutes and rules that guide LARA. Over the past few years, we have worked with LARA to develop a more suitable plan for those courts that have staff conducting substance abuse screenings and assessments pursuant to a multitude of statutes.¹

Effective immediately, courts are no longer required to possess a SARF license issued by LARA. In accordance with MCL 333.1106(4), courts are a governmental entity and are not required to be licensed as a substance use disorder services program under Article 6 (Part 62) of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368; specifically, MCL 333.6233. Therefore, courts should not receive an invoice from LARA this year and going forward. If your court receives such an invoice, please disregard it.

In lieu of being licensed, LARA issued a letter to the State Court Administrative Office designating courts to perform substance use disorder screening and assessments activities

¹ Including, but not limited to the following: MCL 257.624a(3); 257.624b(1); 257.625b(5); MCL 247.259185(10); MCL 324.80185(2); MCL 324.81134(18); MCL 324.82141(2); MCL 333.7408a(3), as related to substance use disorder services; MCL 333.7411(6); MCL 436.1703(1); MCL 462.353(9);

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provided that the court employees are properly trained. Staff persons conducting substance abuse screenings and assessments to aid the judge in determining a sentence may have either received training and credentialing from a nationally recognized substance use disorder (SUD) credentialing organization or the Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals (MCBAP). In addition to possessing a credential, those performing substance abuse screenings and assessments for the courts may be working toward a credential (developmental plan), or they may be supervised by an individual already possessing acceptable credentials.

Attached is the letter from LARA. Please feel free to save it for your records.

If you have questions, please contact me at courtservices@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-3756.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

June 11, 2020

Hon. Thomas Boyd
State Court Administrator
925 W Ottawa
Lansing, MI 48915

Dear Judge Boyd:

To the extent designation from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community & Health Systems, is required under various statutes, including MCL 257.624a(3); 257.624b(1); 257.625b(5); MCL 259.185(10); MCL 324.80185(2); MCL 324.81134(18); MCL 324.82141(2); MCL 333.7408a(3), as related to substance use disorder services; MCL 333.7411(6); MCL 436.1703(1); MCL 462.353(9), Courts are designated to perform substance use disorder screening and assessment activities provided that the Court has trained staff. Court staff who perform the screening and assessment activities may have either received training and credentialing from a nationally recognized substance use disorder (SUD) credentialing organization or the *Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals (MCBAP)*, are working towards a credential and have undertaken training, or are supervised by an individual with a accepted credential.

In accord with MCL 333.1106(4), Courts as a governmental entity are not a person required to be licensed as a substance use disorder services program under Article 6 (Part 62) of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368; specifically, MCL 333.6233. **With that, the Courts will no longer be invoiced for an annual license fee under MCL 333.6237.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Gobbo".

Stephen J. Gobbo, Esq.
Deputy Bureau Director

Cc: Larry Horvath, Bureau Director