

- 1. Section 2.3.1. Required Personnel states the director of psychiatric nursing services must be a registered nurse with a master's degree (or its equivalent). What is the equivalent?**

Equivalent experience for the director of psychiatric nursing services may be a registered nurse who meets the minimum requirements as outlined in the Pennsylvania State Code: [55 Pa. Code § 1101](#) and [55 Pa. Code § 1151](#).

- 2. Section 2.2.5. Medical Services states that the BHDD AIP should have physician capacity. Can a nurse practitioner be used in this role instead of a physician?**

A psychiatrist is required as part of the staffing on the BHDD AIP unit. For individuals who may require more intensive medical services, an initial evaluation may be completed by a physician or nurse practitioner and then may be referred to the appropriate medical services. If a provider is not affiliated with a medical hospital, they may have an MOU with a medical hospital to ensure whole-person integrated care is provided.

- 3. Will the communication assessments be conducted prior to the client arriving to the program, or will the communication assessment be conducted once the clients arrive?**

The communication assessment should be conducted by the BHDD AIP as indicated in Section 2.2.4 Other Assessments. Proposals should include what communication assessment will be utilized, a plan for training staff in the assessment and how the recommended interventions and strategies will be incorporated into individualized treatment plans.

- 4. Can startup costs be used for renovations?**

Yes, renovations may be included as part of the available startup costs. Providers should submit budgets including how they will use the startup costs as part of their proposal.