

Flexibility in Requirements for SUD Staff Qualifications, Supervision, and Client/Staff Ratios During the Opioid Epidemic

Effective immediately, CBH is aligned with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) [Licensing Alert 3-2024 Act 66 of 2023, Regulatory Flexibilities During an Opioid Epidemic](#). Act 66 provides substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facilities with flexibility in staffing ratios, qualifications, and supervision during an opioid epidemic.

The Act 66 flexibilities are listed below by position, with the citation to the requirements in 28 PA Code § 704:

- ➔ Counselor: A Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) or Physician Assistant (PA) is qualified. § 704.7(b)(1) *New credentials added.*
- ➔ Counselor: Persons can serve as counselors even without previous clinical experience if they have obtained a bachelor's or associate degree from an accredited college with a major in chemical dependency, psychology, social work, counseling, nursing (with a clinical specialty in the human services), or other related fields; or are currently licensed as a Registered Nurse § 704.7(b)(3), (4), and (5) *Experience waived.*
- ➔ Counselor Assistant: A treatment facility may hire up to three counselor assistants for each staff person who meets the qualifications of a clinical supervisor or counselor. § 704.8(a) *The original requirement is 1:1.*
- ➔ On-Call Medical Staff: A residential detoxification program may use a CRNP or PA as an on-call physician. § 704.12(a)(1)(ii) *New credentials added.*
- ➔ Client/Staff Ratio: A residential detoxification program must have at least one full-time equivalent staff person available for every ten clients during primary care hours. § 704.12(a)(1) *The original requirement is 1:7.*
- ➔ Client/Staff Ratio: A residential treatment and rehabilitation program for adults must have at least one full-time equivalent counselor for every twelve clients. § 704.12(a)(3)(i) *The original requirement is 1:8.*

Please direct any questions to CBH.CredentialingContact@phila.gov.