**§1218-A. Baxter Counseling Services Program**

The Baxter Counseling Services Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department to facilitate the delivery of therapeutic counseling services for eligible former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf without cost to individuals. Services facilitated under the program are limited to therapeutic counseling services for eligible former students. The department shall ensure that therapeutic counseling services provided under the program are reimbursed under the MaineCare program to the maximum extent possible. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. TTTT, §1 (NEW).]

**1. Eligibility.**  This subsection governs eligibility for therapeutic counseling services under the program. Eligibility is limited to individuals are former students of the Maine School for the Deaf or the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and who attended or graduated before July 1, 2001.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. TTTT, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Facilitation of counseling services.**  The department shall facilitate therapeutic counseling services through contracts with mental health providers that specialize in services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing and late deafened. New contracts entered into with mental health providers that do not have a contract with the State must enroll as MaineCare providers. The department, as payor of last resort, shall provide General Fund contracts for therapeutic counseling services for individuals who do not receive MaineCare benefits and for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. The department shall assist mental health providers in navigating reimbursement under the MaineCare program. The department shall monitor contracts to ensure compliance related to program eligibility, MaineCare policies and department licensure requirements. Therapeutic counseling services funded under the program may not exceed $170,000 per year.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. TTTT, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. TTTT, §1 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1. 2023
 . The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.