ASAM UPDATE
October 7, 2019

STATUS REPORT:
• To date, about 8,500 individuals have received in-person, 2-day ASAM Skill Building Training.
• In January 2020, online training will be added as a DDAP-approved training option. See DDAP website for details.
• The ASAM criteria has been utilized by contracted assessors and treatment providers across the state since July 1, 2018 as a level of care placement tool.
• DDAP has received few concerns from providers regarding use of the criteria.
• Of data received by DDAP, there has been little to no negative impact resulting from the transition to the ASAM criteria related to length of stay authorizations, denials, etc.
• DDAP has updated the “Pennsylvania Guidance for Applying The ASAM Criteria, 2013” in August 2019 (with 2 minor edits in 9/19), in response to feedback from the field and to streamline the document, in general.

NEXT STEPS:
• DDAP and DHS will be moving toward adopting the service descriptions, hours of service, staffing qualifications as noted in The ASAM Criteria, 2013. Guidance will be issued to the field about any exceptions to the descriptions that might be applied as a result of regulatory alignment.
• Efforts are underway to assist the field in applying individualized care through the development of a best practice guide.
• DDAP and DHS are working to revise the Co-Occurring Bulletin issued by DHS (DPW) in 2006. This will assist providers in the delivery of co-occurring services ambulatory clinical services.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:
• DDAP has an open forum for accepting questions and comments regarding use of The ASAM Criteria, 2013 through the following email: ra-daasam@pa.gov.
• Announcements and information related to application of The ASAM Criteria, 2013 is released via DDAP’s listserv. To be added to DDAP's listserv and receive updates from the department, please email RA-DAPressOffice@pa.gov with your name(s), organization, and email address(es). Please include "Listserv" in the subject line. Updates are also posted on DDAP’s website: www.ddap.pa.gov.