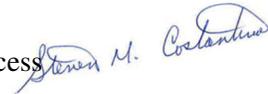


MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bill Lippert, Chair, House Committee on Health Care

From: Steven M. Costantino, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access



Cc: Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services

Date: February 12, 2016

Re: Request for Information from Department of Vermont Health Access on Group Psychotherapy rates

This memorandum is in response to the committee request for information from the Department of Vermont Health Access, (DVHA) regarding group psychotherapy rate changes including the history and costs incurred.

Methodology of rate setting for 90853 group psychotherapy rate

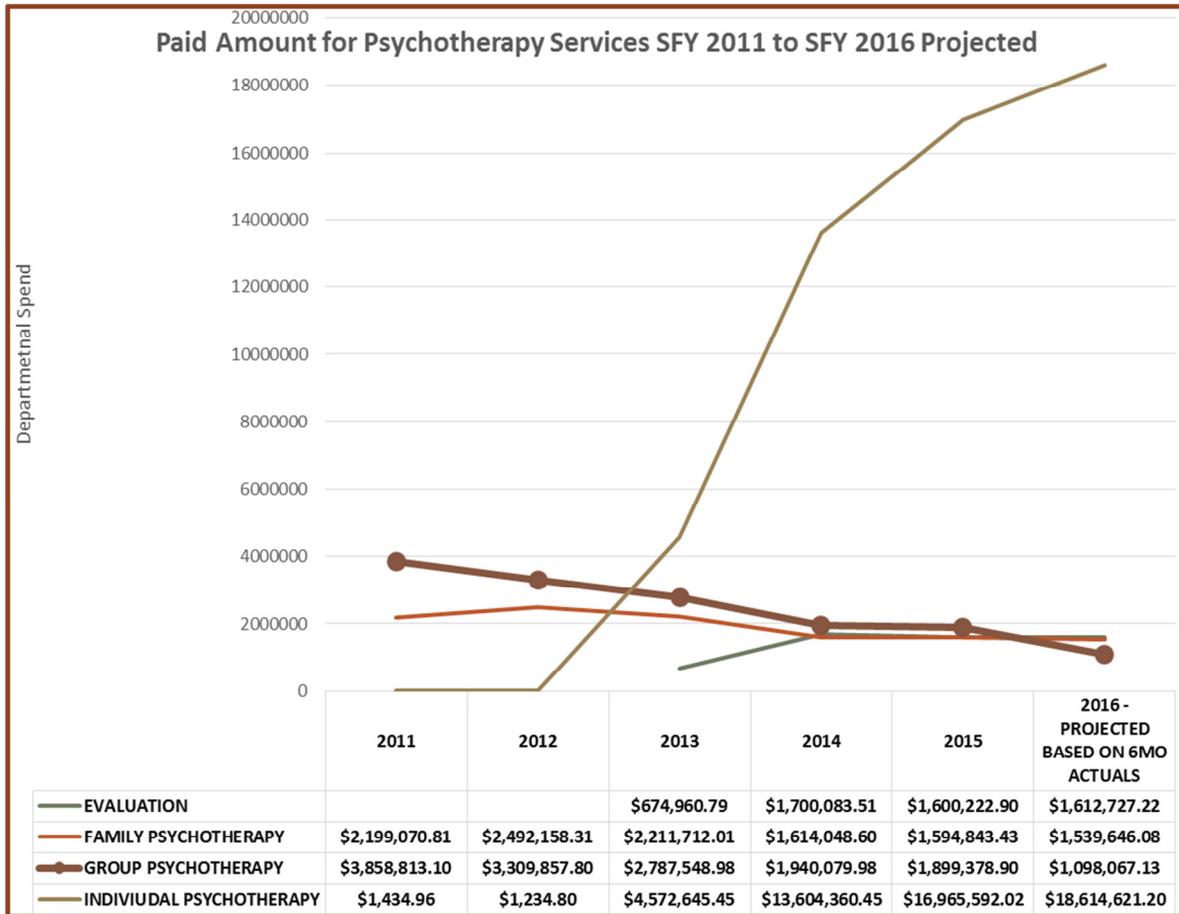
- July 2015 DVHA came into compliance with correct coding standards.
 - One unit = one session 1 session per day
 - Price per unit \$41.00 for six months
- January 2016 DVHA implemented the correct rate for 90853 using the Medicaid State Plan approved resource based relative value scale (RBRVS) methodology.

Historical DVHA rates for 90853

Begin Date	End Date	Unit Definition	Rate	1 Hour
7/1/2004	12/31/2010	1 unit = 15 min	\$ 15.37	\$ 61.48
1/1/2011	12/31/2011	1 unit = 15 min	\$ 13.28	\$ 53.12
1/1/2012	12/31/2012	1 unit = 15 min	\$ 9.22	\$ 36.88
1/1/2013	12/31/2013	1 unit = 15 min	\$ 9.61	\$ 38.44
1/1/2014	12/31/2014	1 unit = 15 min	\$ 10.49	\$ 41.96
1/1/2015	6/30/2015	1 unit = 15 min	\$ 10.25	\$ 41.00
7/1/2015	12/31/2015	1 unit = 1 Session	\$ 41.00	\$ 41.00
1/1/2016	12/31/2016	1 unit = 1 Session	\$ 20.50	\$ 20.50

Utilization of group psychotherapy

- The following chart shows spending of group psychotherapy compared to other psychotherapy services.
- Group psychotherapy has experienced a decline in cost and utilization since 2011. Individual psychotherapy continues to increase at a rate of growth greater than the decline.



Department Payments for Group Psychotherapy

DVHA is primarily responsible for the reimbursement of group psychotherapy services under 90853. The Department of Mental Health continues to reimburse at the rate of \$41 per session.

	2014	2015	2016 to date
DVHA	\$1,921,102	\$1,886,075	\$834,734
DMH	\$17,496	\$13,159	\$3,273
ADAP	\$1,481	\$144	\$272

Designated Agency Payments Mental Health Clinics	2015	2016 to date
DVHA MH/DS Clinic	\$288,974	\$115,098
DMH MH Clinic	\$8,162	\$1,151