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Document Scope: (applies to Policy & Procedure only)

- The requirements herein apply only to the GCBH Central Office and its functions.
 - X - The requirements herein apply, verbatim, to GCBH and its network providers².
 - The requirements herein apply both to GCBH and its network providers². Additionally, network providers must have internal documents outlining their processes for implementing the requirements, insofar as they relate to actions for which network providers are responsible.
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PURPOSE: To define requirements regarding the retention and use of Mental Health Specialists.

DEFINITIONS

- I. Mental Health Specialist: A mental health professional with education and experience relating to a specific population, as defined by WAC 388-865-0150.

POLICY

- A. As required by WAC 388-865-0260, the RSN assures sufficient availability of mental health specialists to meet the needs of eligible consumers.
- B. The RSN assures that, when more than five hundred persons in the total population of its geographic area report in the U.S. census that they belong to a racial/ethnic group defined in WAC 388-865-0150, its network providers have access to, and utilize the services of, the required specialists to provide all or part of the treatment services for these populations, or to supervise or provide consultation to staff members providing treatment services to these populations. Network Providers must maintain working relationships with mental health specialists with expertise relevant to the populations the Providers serve.
- C. The RSN makes an effort to recruit and maintain mental health specialists specific to the Tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations named in its contract with the Mental Health Division for inclusion in its Tribal and Recognized American Indian Organization (RAIO) Coordination Implementation Plan.
- D. As needed, the RSN provides training or outside resources to assist providers to acquire necessary skills and experience to serve the needs of the RSN's consumer populations.

APPROVAL

/S/ William Wilson

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06/05/08