



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Ongoing Evolution of the Specialty Substance Use Disorder (SUD) System

October 9, 2025

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The Nexus with Behavioral Health Commission Responsibilities

- Given the BH Commission's responsibilities advising the Directors of the specialty MH and SUD systems, this presentation provides essential background information for the BH Commission about the past, present, and particularly future of the specialty substance use disorder (SUD) system in Los Angeles County.
- The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria are national standards established to ensure comprehensive SUD assessments, including mental health (MH) focuses, that inform level of care placements in SUD settings.
 - The ASAM Criteria is how medical necessity and placement decisions are made in Drug Medi-Cal
- The State (Dept of Health Care Services) is planning on transitioning from the ASAM 3rd Edition Criteria to the 4th Edition, likely no sooner than 2027.
 - Key changes include a greater focus on co-occurring SUD and MH care, in addition to increasing access to withdrawal management and medications for addiction treatment (MAT).

Key Milestones of Specialty SUD System Transformation

2017

- Specialty SUD system moved into **managed care** by implementing the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver
 - Includes ASAM 3rd edition implementation
- Moved from largely paper-based system to electronic with **electronic health record implementation**
- Fragmented funding --> **consolidated funding** under Drug Medi-Cal

2022

- CalAIM implementation

2023

- Implementation of **behavioral health payment reform**; moved away from cost-based reimbursement to being the only publicly funded MH or SUD system in CA to launch value-based reimbursement
- Paradigm shift in approach to SUD treatment via launch of the **Reaching the 95% (R95) Initiative** to redefine treatment readiness and low barriers to SUD care

2027

- ASAM 4th edition implementation?

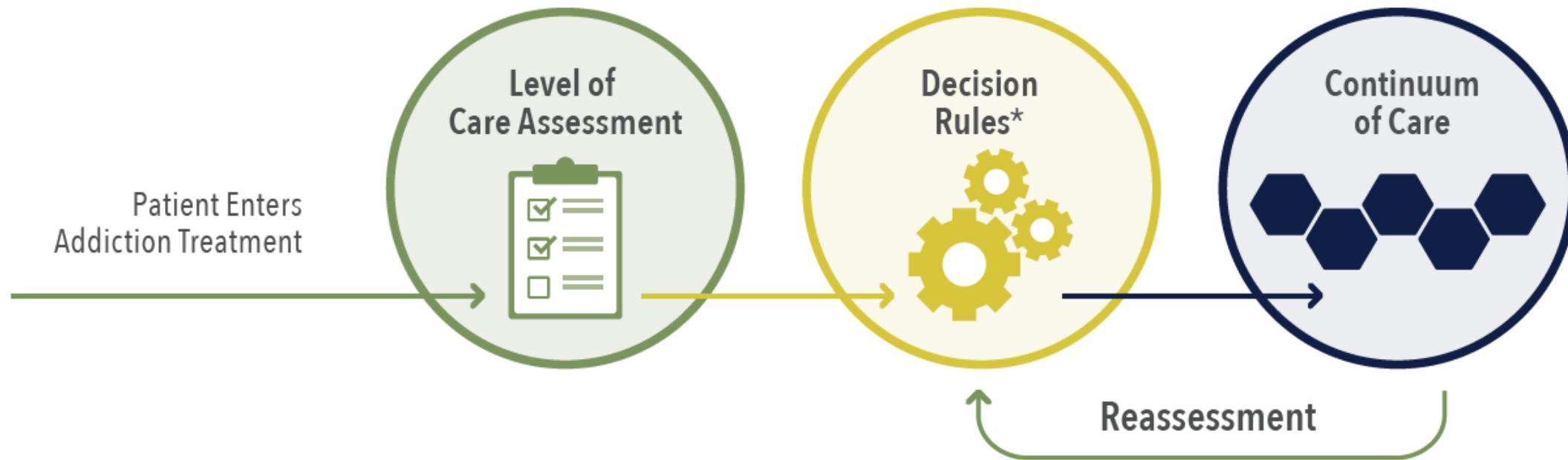


Updating The ASAM Criteria Standards for SUD Treatment

The ASAM Criteria 3rd → 4th Edition



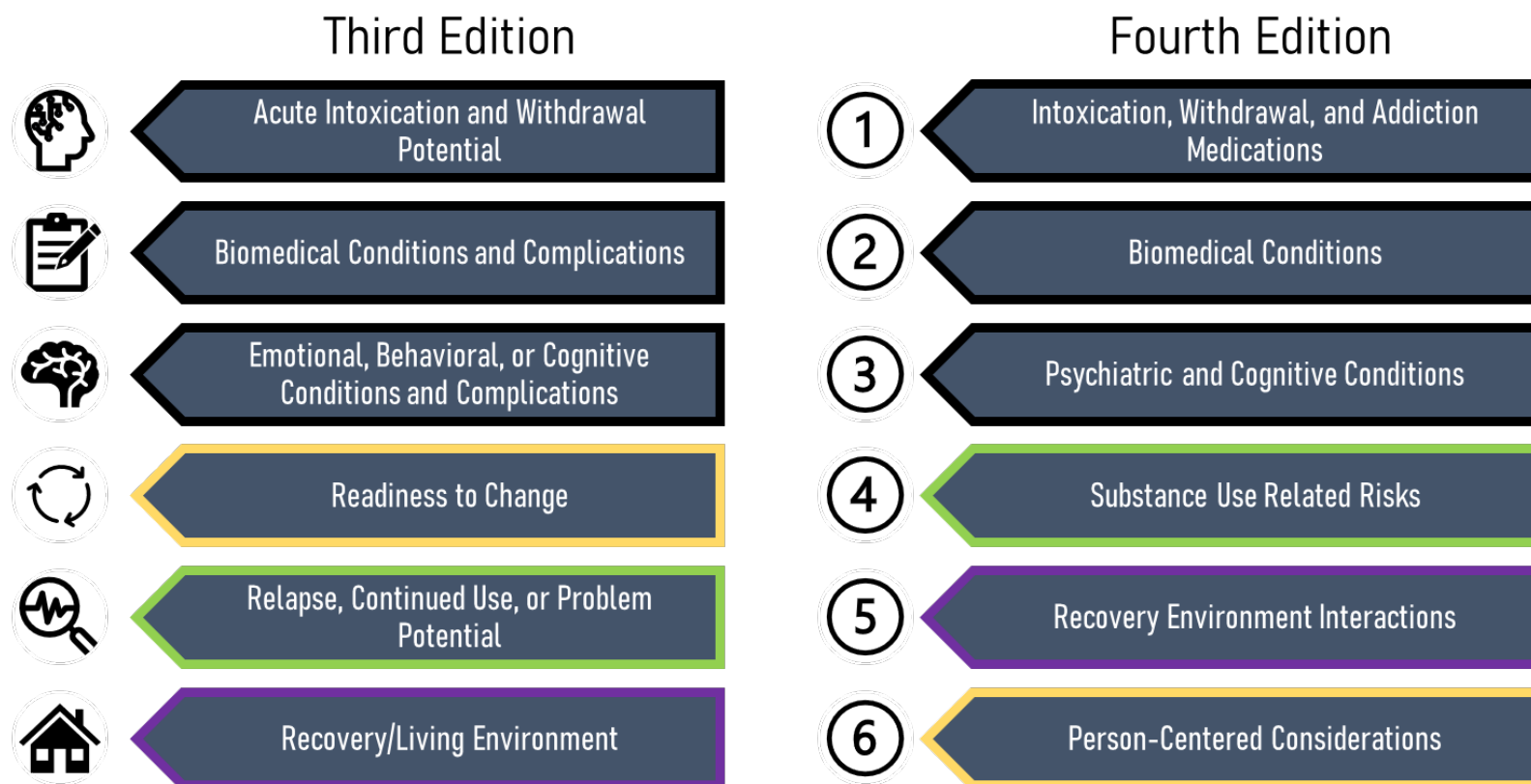
Core Components of The ASAM Criteria



* Decision rules include the Dimensional Admission Criteria and the transition and continued service criteria.

Reordering the Assessment Dimensions

- Since readiness to change does not independently contribute to initial treatment recommendations the dimensions will be adjusted
- Readiness considered across all dimensions.
- New Dimension 6 focuses on patient preferences, barriers to care, and need for motivational enhancement



The ASAM Criteria Continuum of Care for Adult Addiction Treatment

Level 4: Inpatient

4 Medically Managed Inpatient
4 Psych

Level 3: Residential

3.1 Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential

3.5 Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential
3.5 COE

3.7 Medically Managed Residential
3.7 BIO 3.7 COE

Level 2: IOP/HIOP

2.1 Intensive Outpatient (IOP)

2.5 High-Intensity Outpatient (HIOP)
2.5 COE

2.7 Medically Managed Intensive Outpatient
2.7 COE

Level 1: Outpatient

1.0 Long-Term Remission Monitoring

1.5 Outpatient Therapy
1.5 COE

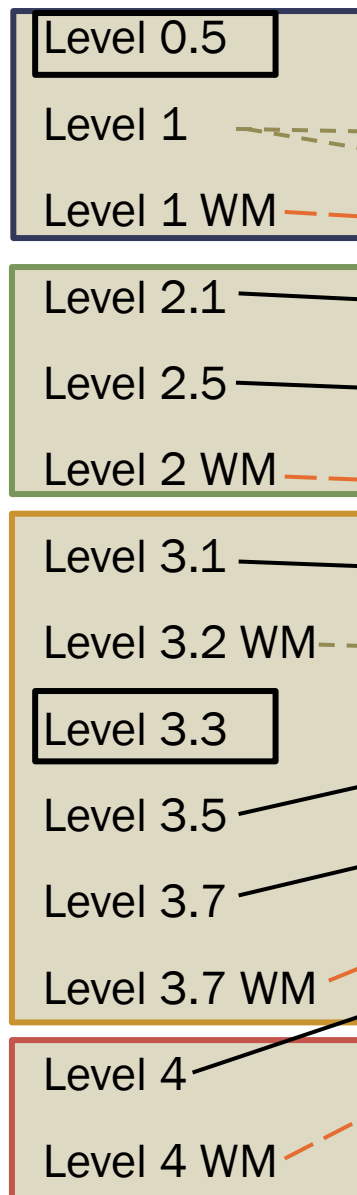
1.7 Medically Managed Outpatient
1.7 COE

Recovery Residence

RR Recovery Residence

Changes to The ASAM Criteria Continuum of Care – Adult

ADULT, 3rd Edition



ADULT, 4th Edition



Key

- Services discussed in new chapters
- Elements incorporated into other level(s)
- Incorporated into a new level care
- Revised and updated level of care

Notable ASAM 4th Edition Level of Care Changes



Removing Level 0.5. Early intervention and prevention are addressed in a new chapter.



Removing Level 3.3. Reflecting that cognitive deficits should be addressed in all levels of care.



Level 3.2 WM services integrated into Level 3.5.



Recovery support service expectations at each level of care.



Expectation that all levels of care be co-occurring capable at minimum.



Adding universal access to addiction medications in all setting and adding harm reduction as a component of individualized care.



**“The opposite of addiction is NOT sobriety;
the opposite of addiction is **connection.**”**

- Johann Hari, British-Swiss Writer