The Joint Commission recently approved new standards regarding prevention and wellness promotion services for the behavioral health care accreditation program. These new standards become effective January 1, 2013.

It is important to note that the new standards address only those prevention and wellness promotion services that are community-based, such as depression screening, suicide prevention, and substance abuse prevention. Prevention and wellness promotion services provided to an individual served through his or her plan for care, treatment, or services are not subject to these standards.

These new standards apply to those organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services. An organization considering offering these services could also use the standards to guide development of a community-based service. The new standards do not mandate that all organizations must now provide these services.

Key aspects and expectations of these standards require the following actions from the organization:

- Seek input from the community about its needs for prevention and wellness promotion services.
- Determine which community resources might support the organization's provision of the services.
- Determine whether evidence-based guidelines, promising or emerging practices, or expert consensus exist for the services it plans to provide and, if so, whether it will use this information to develop its services.
- Employ staff who are trained or certified to provide prevention and wellness promotion services (organizations may provide their own training).
- Evaluate and improve its prevention and wellness promotion services.

The new standards will appear in the 2012 Update 2 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Behavioral Health Care, scheduled for publication in fall 2012 (as well as in the E-dition® update scheduled for release in October), as part of the "Care, Treatment, and Services" (CTS) chapter. The new standards, shown in the box on page 15, are also available on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/PrePubs_Prevention_and_Wellness_Promotion.pdf.

Questions about the new standards may be directed to Lynn Berry, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at lberry@jointcommission.org.

Continued on page 15
Effective January 1, 2013

Care, Treatment, and Services (CTS)

Standard CTS.07.01.01
For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization’s prevention and wellness promotion services are planned.

Elements of Performance for CTS.07.01.01
A 1. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization has a written plan for providing prevention and wellness promotion services that are relevant to its mission and the scope of its services. (See also LD.03.03.01, EP 4)

A 2. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization seeks input about the needs of the community served relative to prevention and wellness promotion services; the organization uses this information to guide its planning process.

A 3. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization identifies those resources within the community (if any) that will be utilized to support the provision of the organization’s prevention and wellness promotion services.

A 4. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: When the organization develops prevention and wellness promotion services, it determines whether evidence-based guidelines, promising or emerging practices, or expert consensus exist for the services it plans to provide. If such information does exist, the organization determines whether it will use it to develop its services.

Standard CTS.07.01.02
For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization's prevention and wellness promotion services are managed.

Elements of Performance for CTS.07.01.02
A 1. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization provides prevention and wellness promotion services designed to meet the needs of an identified community. Communities are identified according to various factors, such as age, sex, ethnicity, culture, or other defining traits.

C 2. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: Staff who provide prevention and wellness promotion services are either trained or certified to provide such services. Training can be provided by the organization.

A 3. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: When new prevention and wellness promotion services are begun, the organization establishes baseline demographics of the population(s) that will receive these services by gathering its own data or utilizing existing data.

Standard CTS.07.01.03
For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization’s prevention and wellness promotion services are evaluated.

Elements of Performance for CTS.07.01.03
A 1. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization identifies the aggregate data it will collect regarding the services it provides, such as the number of individuals receiving the services and the number of hours spent providing the services.

A 2. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization evaluates its prevention and wellness promotion services.

A 3. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization takes action to improve its prevention and wellness promotion services.

A 4. For organizations that provide prevention and wellness promotion services: The organization regularly reports to leadership on the prevention and wellness promotion services.