

Milestone Three: Funding and the Regulatory Environment

****In a journal post, analyze the current regulatory and funding policies that relate to the scenario****

Scenario

You have just finished meeting with your client, Mary, to review her treatment plan and discuss why she has been missing appointments at your agency. Referring

to the state-funded transportation program, Better Transportation Company (BTC), Mary stated, "BTC just don't show up or I have to wait and sometimes I miss

the appointment." "Sometimes I have to wait for hours to get a ride back home." "They even forgot me last week." "You know, back in my younger days, I would

have picketed the state house and shown them a thing or two!" "I love the drivers though; they are kind, help me with my bags and walker, and are always polite

and respectful."

Mary has few financial resources and significant mental health needs and physical disabilities. Mary is also finding it difficult to pay for alternative transportation

or to rely on friends and family, though they are sometimes available. The therapist has recommended that Mary come to treatment group three times per week.

Mary has only been able to attend three groups in the past two months. She states she would be willing to come to the therapy groups if she could find reliable

transportation. For Mary, attending these groups would likely mean greater medical and mental health stability and therefore fewer emergency room visits,

fewer hospital admissions, and a greater quality of life.

Explore what transportation to medical and mental health appointments is available in the community that you are using for your final project, as well as the

regulatory and funding regulations in the area. Who funds that transportation? What state regulations are there related to transporting patients to health

appointments? How do policies impact the clients that need transportation? If you are having trouble finding the information, who will you ask for more

information? Post a one- to two-paragraph description of your findings in a journal entry.

In your response, specifically address the following critical elements:

a. Identify the community you will use in support of the final project.

b. Discuss the transportation options that are available in your community for people who have disabilities. Are there any limitations (such as minimum

notice requirements for scheduling, transportation is to be used only for medical appointments, etc.) on its use?

c. How does the state funding policy for these transportation services affect their use? In other words, is there a financial limitation on the services each

client receives or wishes to use? Is prior approval required? How are the providers and/or clients reimbursed by the state?

d. As a presenter, how might you encourage stakeholder discussion on and engagement with the regulatory environment and the state's requirements of

the agency for provision of services? For example, what are the legal and ethical implications of not abiding by these policies?

Possible resource:

☐ NAMI State Mental Health Service Funding