

Licensing Communication #1
January 2009
To All DMHMRSAS Licensed Providers:

We hope you are having a good holiday season in spite of the bad news we hear everyday. This e-mail is a test to see how well this distribution list works in terms of contacting providers. We are attempting to economize by not having to send out mailings, but improve communication through using e-mail.

This distribution list will be used to send general information and news about licensing to providers.

If you received this e-mail and should not have (you are no longer associated with the provider or want someone else in the organization to receive communication from us), please reply that you want to be taken off this list or provide another e-mail name and address for the list.

We request your help in updating e-mails addresses, when there is a change in an address or person in a position by contacting your licensing specialist.

We also remind you that by regulation you need to inform the Office of Licensing regarding changes in addresses. This will in the long run reduce work for you and for us in that mail will be sent to the correct location and your licenses will not need to be corrected due to incorrect addresses. Please inform your licensing specialist of any change of address.

Regulations

The Rules and Regulations for the Licensing of Providers of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services, the Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support Waiver and Brain Injury Residential Services have been approved by the State Board for transmission to the Governor's Office for approval for public comment. Many of you worked on these regulations. Once the Governor's Office approves them, they will go out for public comment and after that comment is received, revised and become effective. I think we have a shorter name for the regulations as well.

The Standards for Interdepartmental Regulation of Children's Residential Facilities have also been approved for revision through the "fast track process." The 2008 General Assembly eliminated the interdepartmental process and required regulations be promulgated by October 31, 2009. These "new" regulations take out references to the interdepartmental process, incorporate the "Mental Health Module," so there is just one set applicable regulations. Our future goal would be to incorporate these residential regulations into the other DMHMRSAS regulations, so there is only one set of regulations.

Changes

Due to budget cuts, there has been a loss of licensing positions. Some positions have already been cut and some will be cut by March 2009. As a result, there will be changes in processes and specialist assignments. We will use this e-mail list to keep you informed of changes when they occur. I am thanking you in advance for your patience during this transition period.

Thank you for your assistance!