



March 11, 2013

Dear Mental Health Service Provider:

Effective March 15, 2013, the inspection and licensing of your services licensed under 55 Pa.Code Chapters 5310 and 5320, and/or your Residential Treatment Facilities(RTFs), previously completed by the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) will be managed by the Department's Bureau of Human Services Licensing.

This change is being implemented as part of the Department's initiative to consolidate licensing functions within a single bureau in order to provide the highest level of health, safety and rights protections for people served in licensed settings. We believe that this merger will further provide for more consistent across-the-board decision-making regarding regulatory application, interpretation and enforcement.

We recognize that this transition will involve a change in regulatory expectations as we begin to apply our policies, procedures and methodologies to the chapters of regulations under which you operate. Therefore, we are committed to limiting regulatory enforcement actions, including non-renewals, revocations, and the issuance of provisional licenses, to situations involving clear and serious risk to individuals in care during this first year of mental health program licensing.

If you have any questions or concerns about this transition, please feel free to contact the Bureau of Human Services Licensing at:

Bureau of Human Services Licensing
Room 631 Health and Welfare Building
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

E-mail: ra-pwarlheadquarters@state.pa.us

Provider Support Hotline: 1-866-503-3926

I look forward to working with you to serve and protect our Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Ronald Melusky

Ronald Melusky
Director