



Department of Public Welfare

JUL 25 2008

Department of Health

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for your interest in becoming approved as a Co-Occurring Disorder Competent program. This correspondence is to inform you of the current status of the program approval process for the Departments. The criteria and the approval process have been piloted in various levels of care across the Commonwealth. To date, 15 providers have participated in the pilot, and based upon the initial reviews, the Departments of Health (DOH) and Public Welfare (DPW) are making any necessary revisions prior to the inception of the statewide approval process.

As another step in this initiative, the Departments, in conjunction with the Governor's Office, are also progressing towards the promulgation of Integrated Treatment Regulations designed to allow a singly licensed program to provide integrated treatment services to individuals diagnosed with co-occurring disorders. The initial set of regulations address the outpatient level of care.

To ensure that a coordinated and formal mechanism for the approval and licensing of all competent and integrated programs occurs, the Departments are developing formal protocols for the statewide implementation. Upon completion by both Departments, the protocols will be issued to all interested facilities. *Please note that there will be a temporary moratorium on DOH and DPW COD competency site reviews until the formal protocols are developed.*

In the interim, programs, counties, and their managed care partners are encouraged to utilize the competency standards for program development. The Departments will continue to provide guidance and assistance in partnership with interested providers and county coalitions. Additionally, the Departments will continue to offer specialized co-occurring training in support of the workforce, the COD Competency Bulletin standards, and the proposed Integrated Treatment Regulations. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Ms. Jean Rush at (717) 346-3361.

Again, we appreciate your interest in this important endeavor and look forward to working with you to support the principles of a "no wrong door" approach to accessing quality services within the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Primrose".

Sincerely,

Robert Primrose
COSIG Project Director
OMHSAS, DPW

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl Williams".

Cheryl Williams, Director
Program Licensure
Division of D&A, DOH