

READ IMMEDIATELY



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

2405 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2405
Courier 56-20-25 Fax 919-715-0023

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

October 1, 2001

Dear County Director of Social Services and Area Mental Health Program Director:

Subject: Training for Interim Plan for Resident Evaluation Services POSTPONED

You recently received a letter dated September 5, 2001, telling you about the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) interim plan for implementation of Resident Evaluation Services (RES). In that letter we told you that Secretary Carmen Hooker Buell had directed us to develop an interim plan to immediately screen SA recipients for possible referral for mental health, developmental disabilities, and/or substance abuse services. The interim plan involved all county DSSs and area mental health programs with SA recipients residing in facilities in their counties.

Since directing the Divisions of Social Services and Mental Health to develop the interim plan for RES, the DHHS has been considering other options for how to accomplish the interim plan, including having the facilities where SA recipients reside complete the screening tool and make referrals to area mental health programs or other qualified professionals. Our two Divisions are still in discussion with the DHHS about who should carry out the interim plan and how best to manage it. We want to be able to gather information about the mental health/developmental disabilities/substance abuse needs of our SA recipients in the most efficient and appropriate manner possible, so that services can be adequately planned, budgeted, and provided to these individuals.

There are still a number of unresolved issues with the options that the DHHS is considering for the interim plan for RES. As you know, training on the interim plan is scheduled to begin on October 9th for county DSSs and area mental health programs. The training is scheduled for nine locations across the state during the months of October and November. Given the unresolved issues with the interim plan, **we are postponing the training for county DSSs and area mental health programs until further notice.**

Once decisions are made within the DHHS, we will let you know how we are planning to proceed on the interim plan for RES. We apologize for any inconvenience this delay may have caused you or your staff. These are important decisions that impact the well-being of many of our elderly and disabled adults in adult care facilities, so we want to make sure we have a sound plan in place for conducting these screenings and making referrals, where appropriate.

If you or your staff have questions or need additional information, please contact Suzanne Merrill (919-733-3818) or your Adult Programs Representative in the Division of Social Services, or Dave Peterson (DD Section 919-733-4665) or Ken Marsh (Adult Mental Health Section-919-571-4980) in the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Pheon E. Beal in black ink.

Pheon E. Beal, Director
Division of Social Services

Handwritten signature of Arthur J. Robarge in black ink.

Arthur J. Robarge, Acting Director
Division of Mental Health/Developmental
Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services

PEB/AJR:sm
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