STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration * P.O. Box 45310 * Olympia, WA 98504-5310

November 6, 2014

Dear Group Training Home Provider and Interested Parties:

A final federal rule, published in January 2014 and effective March 17, 2014, established requirements for Home and Community-Based Settings in Medicaid (HCBS) programs operated under sections 1915(c),1915(i), and 1915(k) of the Social Security Act. The rule created a more outcome-oriented definition of home and community-based settings, rather than one based solely on a setting's location, geography, or physical characteristics. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have made it clear that "the rule applies to all settings in which Medicaid HCBS are provided, including non-residential settings for employment-related services."

These regulatory changes are intended to ensure that HCBS program participants receive services in the most integrated settings – that is, settings that do not isolate persons with disabilities from others without disabilities.

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA) are working together to conduct an assessment of settings where Medicaid funded home and community based services are provided and are preparing a report for CMS that will include a transition plan for settings that are determined to have institutional characteristics.

DDA and ALTSA are developing the transition plan with public, Tribal and stakeholder input and will include actions the state will take to address identified issues. Those steps may include revised contractual requirements, standardized residential admission agreements, changes to licensing survey elements and potential changes to WAC.

A new web page has been established so that staff and other stakeholders may learn about the federal changes. Refer to this page to learn about the new rules and Washington State's transition plan. http://www.altsa.dshs.wa.gov/stakeholders/hcbs/

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Beckman, Waiver Unit Manager at (360) 725-3445 or by email at Bob.Beckman@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Perez, Assistant Secretary
Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

"Transforming Lives"