



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Disability Services Administration
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

May 2, 2011

Dear Stakeholders:

I'm pleased to announce that the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is ready to proceed with the formal rule-making process to develop a single set of Behavioral Health Washington Administrative Codes (WAC) by integrating the existing chemical dependency, problem and pathological gambling, and mental health rules.

To help facilitate this work, we are using federal administrative funding to retain the services of Northwest Resource Associates (NWRA). NWRA is a non-profit organization with knowledge in the fields of mental health and chemical dependency. NWRA is known for their ability to work with Tribal Governments, clients, stakeholders, and institutions to blend the needs and issues into the best possible solution for those concerned. They will approach this project by conducting a literature search on integrated rules for chemical dependency, mental health, and problem and pathological gambling treatment, and review how other states are addressing this. NWRA staff will also interview key informants, convene and facilitate stakeholder meetings and have in-depth discussions with small workgroups throughout the drafting process.

The first stakeholder meeting will be June 9, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference at the Yakima Conference Center. Please RSVP to Deborah Nelson, at deborah.nelson@dshs.wa.gov, by May 20, 2011.

Documents about this project are available in the *Information For* section of DBHR's homepage <http://dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/>. This site will be updated with drafts and notices for upcoming meetings so please check back frequently.

Questions may be directed to Victoria Roberts at 360-725-3715 or victoria.roberts@dshs.wa.gov. I appreciate your continuing interest and look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

David A. Dickinson
Director

cc: Victoria Roberts, Office Chief
Dennis Malmer, Certification Section Supervisor
Peter Marburger, Mental Health Licensing and Certification Supervisor
Kathy Sayre, Rules Manager
Initial Community Partner Advisory Group