



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

June 18, 2013

Dear Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Problem Gambling Provider Agencies:

**SUBJECT: Important Information Regarding Your Agency's Licensure/Certification**

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) has adopted new rules that establish administrative and program specific standards for the licensing and certification of behavioral health agencies that provide chemical dependency, mental health, and problem and pathological gambling services. The purpose of the new rules is to streamline administrative requirements and improve client care by consolidating requirements for all behavioral health treatment services. A community partner advisory group helped to develop draft rules, which were shared with stakeholders, providers, tribal leaders, and other interested parties for comments prior to being adopted.

These rules will replace the current chapters or sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) which regulate chemical dependency (Chapter 388-805 WAC), outpatient mental health (WAC 388-865-0410 through 0484), and problem and pathological gambling programs (Chapter 388-816 WAC). The new chapters are:

- Chapter 388-877, Behavioral Health Services Administrative Requirements
  - Chapter 388-877A, Outpatient Mental Health Services
  - Chapter 388-877B, Chemical Dependency Services
  - Chapter 388-877C, Problem and Pathological Gambling Services

These rules will become effective **July 1, 2013**, and can be found at the following website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/stakeholders.shtml>. **The department will require all agencies and providers affected by these rules to fully comply with the applicable requirements no later than September 1, 2013.**

Information about the implementation process, trainings, and other useful documents and forms are being developed and will be available on the DBHR website: <http://dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/index.shtml>.

To continue to receive information about the new rules, please visit <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=BHA-INFORMATION&A=1> to subscribe to our listserv (BHA-Information).

For further information or questions, please contact us via email at [BHARules@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:BHARules@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Victoria Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration

Dennis Malmer  
Interim Office Chief

cc: RSN Administrators  
County Coordinators  
Other interested parties