STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228
Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration
Thomas Cargiulo, Pharm.D.
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Providers of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services in Maryland

From: Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, Chair
Behavioral Health Integrated Regulations Workgroup

Date: October 24, 2011

Re: Informational Forums with Accrediting Bodies

On October 7th and 21st, 2011, the Workgroup held telephone conferences with officials of the Joint Commission and CARF, respectively. The Workgroup had many questions, some of which related to providers' responses to the Behavioral Health Integration Proposal (posted on DHMH web site on 9/26/2011), as well as issues raised on provider-led conference calls during the week of October 3rd.

In order to be prepared to give providers the best possible information, the Workgroup expressed particular interest in the experience of providers in those states that have mandated accreditation. The questions were answered patiently and thoroughly by The Joint Commission and CARF representatives, who also advised the Workgroup that their organizations make staff available to conduct forums for providers, State officials, and other interested parties.

MHA and ADAA staff will be coordinating with both The Joint Commission and CARF to compare and contrast Departmental regulations with accreditation standards. We are pursuing discussions with the Council On Accreditation.

In order to give providers the opportunity to have direct communication with accrediting bodies, the Workgroup will orchestrate conference calls with them. This way, specific questions about standards and requirements can be answered by the accrediting body.

As a follow-up, the Workgroup will schedule a meeting with providers to talk through what accreditation means for Maryland providers. These activities, by their nature, do not coincide with the earlier timelines posted by the Department. Although that schedule no longer applies, please be

assured that, through memoranda such as this, you will be notified of all provider-related activities, and you will, as always, have the opportunity to comment.

The Workgroup will be issuing notices about the dates, times, and contact information for the telephone conferences and the provider meeting. Participation in these sessions by all providers -- those who are currently accredited and those who are not -- is encouraged.

As the Workgroup continues to work on the Proposal, it is recognized that continuing provider input is crucial. We welcome your input through email (regulations_integration@dhmh.state.md.us) as well as by participation in future forums.

Thank you.