

Plan to Integrate Behavioral Health Regulations in Maryland

The Department will be working on a revision of the current substance abuse (COMAR 10.47) and mental health (COMAR 10.21) regulations to develop a set of behavioral health regulations. This work will be guided by the following principles:

- **Regulations will reflect both system and service integration.** System integration focuses on the framework within which agencies and programs operate. Services integration focuses on the clinical services needed to meet the individual's needs.
- **Regulations will promote administrative simplicity.** The modalities or levels of care are essentially the same for both conditions, so where possible the regulations will use common language and definitions to describe clinical activities.
- **Regulation will facilitate and support the use of effective evidence-based interventions.**
- **Regulations will promote a person-centered approach.** Regulations will support intervening with "whole person health" - social, emotional and physical.

Throughout the regulations development process, DHMH will consult with stakeholders for feedback. This will provide DHMH with critical information that will help guide the process. Drafts will be posted on the DHMH behavioral health integration web page. Comments will be accepted via e-mail. There will be at least three opportunities for public comment.

A timeline for the development of the regulations, including opportunities for stakeholder input, is shown below. This timeline may be adjusted.

NOTE: Due to the proposal suggesting that accreditation be required of all entities and serve in place of most regulations, the below timeline is no longer applicable. Please see the other documents on this web site for further information (11/02/2011).

Responsible Party	Activity	Anticipated Date
DHMH	Post proposed structure and organization of integrated regulations	August 8, 2011
Stakeholders	Provide written feedback via website	August 22, 2011
DHMH	Provide responses to feedback via website	September 7, 2011
DHMH	Post draft of integrated regulations for Administrative Requirements on the Behavioral Health website	October 30, 2011
DHMH/Stakeholders	Hold public session for discussion	November 15, 2011
Stakeholders	Provide written feedback via website	November 21, 2011
DHMH	Review and provide responses to stakeholder feedback via website	December 7, 2011
DHMH	Post draft of integrated regulations for Ambulatory Services on website	January 30, 2012
DHMH/Stakeholders	Hold public session for discussion	February 21, 2012

Responsible Party	Activity	Anticipated Date
Stakeholders	Review and provide written feedback via website	March 7, 2012
DHMH	Provide responses to feedback via website	March 28, 2012
DHMH	Post draft of integrated regulations for Residential Services via website	May 30, 2012
DHMH/Stakeholders	Hold Question and Answer Conference Call	June 15, 2012
Stakeholders	Review and provide written feedback via website	June 21, 2012
DHMH	Provide responses to feedback via website	July 7, 2012
DHMH	Submit final version for formal review and adoption	July 31, 2012