



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

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** Programs that Provide Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services in Maryland

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

**Date:** November 2, 2011

**Re:** Telephone Conferences with Accrediting Organizations

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To give providers the opportunity to obtain information from the national accrediting bodies, the Workgroup has scheduled conference calls as follows:

- CARF: November 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Dial 888-387-8686. Dial 7770123 and press #.
- Joint Commission: November 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Call-in information will be sent as soon as it's available.

A conference call with the third national accreditation organization, Council on Accreditation, will be arranged shortly.

The Workgroup has spoken at length with both the Joint Commission and CARF. Some of what we learned may answer some of the questions that you have.

- What does accreditation cost?

Cost is, of course, a major concern. During our phone call, The Joint Commission informed the Workgroup that it charges two fees. One is an annual fee of \$1800 which gives a program access to ongoing technical advice. The second fee covers the cost of the survey. A minimum of one surveyor for one day would cost \$2865 although the number of surveyors and number of days depends on the size of the program and number of locations. TJC recently conducted a "webinar," that includes a planning tool for estimating costs. The tool is available at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org). Click on accreditation, then behavioral health care,

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and then tools for accreditation.

CARF has informed the Workgroup that, at this time, it charges a \$995 application fee, and the cost to evaluate a program is \$1450 per surveyor per day. It charges no annual fee. CARF's experience is that a typical program will require two surveyors for two days. Larger, more complex programs with multiple sites will require more evaluation time and will, therefore, cost more.

The fee for a specific program would have to be determined by speaking directly with the accrediting body. What, if any, State assistance will be available is not known at this time.

- How much time will be allowed for a program to come into compliance?

Another concern that some of you have expressed is the timetable for accreditation, should that plan be implemented. Both the Joint Commission and CARF have several years' experience with State-mandated accreditation. Both have sufficient staff and resources to respond to such a mandate, and both have reported that behavioral health programs in other states have been enrolled within two to three years. The workgroup is taking their experiences into consideration.

Both the Joint Commission and CARF operate on a three-year cycle, and both report a program recertification success rate of over 90%. Both organizations have stated that their goal is to keep programs accredited while assuring that quality services are rendered.

We hope that this information is useful to you as you prepare for your teleconferences. We suggest that you submit questions to the Workgroup prior to the teleconferences so the accrediting bodies can prepare the appropriate information for you. Email them to [regulations\\_integration@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:regulations_integration@dhhm.state.md.us).

The Workgroup will be setting up meetings to discuss the proposal and what it means for Maryland providers. Information about those meetings will be sent out as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continuing interest.