



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

March 19, 2013

Dear Family member:

I am writing to you today regarding the licensure of Behavior Specialists and to address some of the incorrect and misleading information that is being circulated about Act 62 and its possible impact on delivery of services to your child.

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) recognizes its important role in ensuring that the requirements of Act 62 are implemented. DPW also wants to ensure that your child's necessary services continue without interruption.


DPW is implementing a transition period to allow more time for qualified individuals to obtain a behavior special license. DPW has recently notified the Managed Care Organizations that they can continue to pay for services provided by unlicensed behavioral staff consultants who are reasonably likely to qualify for a behavior specialist license during the transition period. The Managed Care Organizations are to work with providers to ensure children receive the services necessary to meet their behavioral health needs from qualified individuals.

DPW continues to be committed to helping qualified staff meet the requirements for a behavior specialist license. DPW has made available online the trainings an individual may need for a behavior specialist license. Additionally, we continue to approve external training offered through local providers and other agencies. DPW has also provided applicants for a behavior specialist license with technical assistance both in writing and through phone calls and meetings.

As we continue to move forward to a better system of care, I would encourage you to ask the staff working with your child whether they have a license or if they are working to obtain a behavior specialist license. To ensure continuity in the services delivered to your child, you may also want to have a discussion with your provider agency and Managed Care Organization about the steps they are taking to ensure continuity of care for your child.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's services, you can contact the member services number for your Managed Care Organization, which is on the back of your card.

Sincerely,


Beverly D. Mackereth
Acting Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY