



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Office of the Attorney General*

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June 21, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: BRIAN MCCORMICK**  
Regulatory Supervisor  
Department of Medical Assistance Services

**FROM: ELIZABETH A. MCDONALD**  
Special Counsel to DMAS

**DATE: June 21, 2010**

**SUBJECT: Emergency Regulations – Mental Health Services Program Changes to Ensure Appropriate Utilization**

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I have reviewed the attached emergency regulations that would make programmatic changes in the provision of Intensive In-Home services and Community Mental Health services in order to ensure appropriate utilization and cost efficiency.

Based on that review, it is this Office's view that the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services ("DMAS"), acting on behalf of the Board of Medical Assistance Services pursuant to Virginia Code § 32.1-324, has the authority to promulgate these regulations, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act ("APA") and has not exceeded that authority.

The authority for this emergency action is found in Virginia Code § 2.2-4011(B), which provides that emergency regulations may be adopted in "situations in which Virginia statutory law, the [Virginia] appropriation act, or federal law or federal regulation requires that a regulation be effective in 280 days or less from its enactment..." The amendments to the regulations will enable the Director, in lieu of the Board of Medical Assistance Services, to comply with the 2010 *Acts of Assembly* Chapter 874, Item 297 YY.

Please be advised that under Virginia Code §2.2-4011(B), the Department must state in writing "the nature of the emergency and of the necessity for such action and may adopt the regulations. Pursuant to § 2.2-4012, such regulations shall become effective upon approval by the Governor and filing with the Registrar of Regulations." The Department's statement of the nature of the emergency and necessity for such action appears to have been accomplished in the

“Agency Background Document.” In addition, the emergency regulations shall be effective for no more than 12 months. If the Department intends to continue regulating the subject matter governed by these emergency regulations beyond 12 months, it will be necessary to replace these emergency regulations with regulations duly promulgated under Article 2 of the APA. A Notice of Intended Regulatory Action relating to the proposed replacement regulations must be filed with the Register within 60 days of the effective date of the emergency regulations. The proposed regulations must be filed with the Register within 180 days after the effective date of the emergency regulations. Va. Code § 2.2-4011(C).

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 786-7363.

cc: Kim F. Piner  
Senior Assistant Attorney General