

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



ADULT & SENIOR CARE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2006

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION ADULT & SENIOR CARE UPDATE

This is our third quarterly Adult and Senior Care Update for 2006. The Updates continue to be an important method for sharing information about licensing programs and services. We appreciate your support in sharing these Updates with members in your organization and others interested in adult and senior care issues.

REGULATION PACKAGES

The following regulation package for adult care facilities is currently in the process of being completed. If you have questions regarding the proposed regulations, please contact the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312. For copies of proposed regulations, please contact the Office of Regulation Development (ORD) at (916) 657-2586 or visit their website at www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/default.htm. Please note that depending on the version of software that you are currently using, it might be necessary to press your control key to activate the hyperlinks found throughout this document.

Category Consolidation for Adult Day Programs: The applicable General Licensing Requirements, Adult Day Care and Adult Day Support Center Regulations are being consolidated into a single category called Adult Day Programs to comply with Senate Bill 1982, Chapter 773, Statutes of 2002. The merging of the two programs is intended to improve consumer access to community care licensed programs and minimize complexity and confusion for consumers, providers, and regulators.

The public hearing for these regulations was held on August 17, 2005. Based on testimony received, changes were made to the regulations. The changes necessitated a 15-day re-notice which was made available to the public. The re-notice period was April 12 to April 27, 2006. No additional testimony was received.

The proposed regulations were subsequently submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review. OAL identified some changes that needed to be made before the proposed regulations could be approved and returned them to the Department. The Department has 120 days to complete all of the changes required by OAL. We anticipate resubmitting the revised regulations to OAL by early October 2006.

TIPS FOR LICENSEES TO PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

This summer has proven to be a particularly hot one for many parts of California and the nation. We've all seen or read stories about people who have suffered health problems because of extreme heat this summer. However, heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable, and it is important for everyone to be aware of hot-weather safety tips.

A list of tips that licensed community care facilities should follow to make sure that clients and residents are comfortable and safe during extremely hot weather is available on the CCLD website at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/res/pdf/heat.pdf>. Exposure to severe heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and even death. Most at risk are the elderly, the very young and those with chronic health conditions. By following the recommendations on the tip sheet, you can help protect everyone in your facility, including clients and residents, staff, and visitors. Please post the tip sheet in a prominent place in your facility, next to your facility's emergency disaster plan and local emergency telephone numbers.

WEST NILE VIRUS REMINDER

As we have indicated in previous updates, hot weather also brings mosquitoes and the risk of contracting West Nile Virus (WNV). Please remember that related precautions include draining standing water, repairing window and door screens, wearing long pants and sleeves outside when practical, and using a mosquito repellent that is effective against WNV. Like heat-related illnesses, the elderly and those with chronic health conditions are most at risk. Please see the CCLD web site at http://www.ccl.d.ca.gov/Influenzaa_2041.htm for more information, and for access to WNV guidelines for long-term care facilities developed by the California Department of Health Services.

FINANCIAL ABUSE OF SENIORS

As a result of legislation, the California Attorney General's Office was authorized to develop and implement a three-year statewide public education campaign to prevent the abuse of elders and dependent adults. Over 225,000 cases of elder and dependent adult abuse are handled by protective service agencies each year. More than two-thirds of abusers are family members. Currently, it is estimated that only one in five cases of abuse is reported within California. While there are many types of abuse, financial abuse of seniors is a rapidly growing crime and is often called the "Crime of the 21st Century."

The California Attorney General's Office recently released a DVD/Video and Booklet entitled "The Financial Abuse of Seniors. Face It. It's a Crime!" This educational 17-minute video explains that seniors can be targets for corrupt home improvement and lottery scammers, telemarketers, con artists, and even friends, family or caregivers. Information is provided on ways seniors can protect themselves and how to recognize and report financial abuse. The financial abuse of seniors is a crime, whether committed by strangers or people they know and should always be reported to the proper agencies including Adult Protective Services, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman or law enforcement.

Free copies of the DVD/Video and Booklet are available to facilities and senior organizations. They can be ordered by filling out the request form at www.safestate.org/elderabuse. Requests can also be faxed to (916) 327-2384. Questions regarding these materials should be directed to Peggy Osborn, Elder Abuse Program Manager, Office of the Attorney General, at (916) 322-5295.

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION STAFF CHANGES

Bill Jordan retired on May 31, 2006 after 32 years of State service. Bill had been with CCLD for more than 23 years and ended his State service career as Chief of the Caregiver Background Check Bureau. Bill's experience, dedication and leadership style will be sorely missed. In retirement, Bill does not plan on slowing down one bit. He plans on obtaining a graduate degree in public policy, traveling, working for the Department in a part-time capacity, and redoing his backyard.

After 29 years of State service, **Ralph Jensen** of the Senior Care Program has also retired. Ralph was with CCLD for 22 years and ended his State service career as Licensing Program Manager of the Stockton Local Unit Office. Ralph's experience, dedication and leadership style will be sorely missed. In retirement, Ralph plans on driving across the country. His first stop will be to Minneapolis to visit his first grandchild. Other stops will include Missouri to visit family and the East Coast for the fall colors.

John Mongeau will fill Ralph's position as the Licensing Program Manager of the Stockton Local Unit Office. John began his career in CCLD as a Licensing Program Analyst in 1986. He later served in the former Technical Support Bureau for 12 years. John is currently manager of the Policy Development Bureau, Senior Care Program Unit and will assume his new position on September 1, 2006.

The Central Operations Branch is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mary Jolls** as Bureau Chief of the Division Administrative Support Bureau. Mary began her career in CCLD as a Licensing Program Analyst in 1992. Prior to her appointment, Mary was a Staff Services Manager in the Senior Care Program Office. Mary assumed her new position on August 1, 2006.

ADULT CARE PROGRAM REALIGNS

On May 1, 2006, in an effort to equalize caseloads, the Adult Care Program realigned the caseload boundaries for the Los Angeles Tri-County and Southern Regional Adult Care Licensing Offices. In addition to Orange County, the Southern Regional Office will now be licensing and monitoring Adult Residential Facilities, Adult Day Programs and Social Rehabilitation Facilities in the following cities: Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, La Habra Heights, Lakewood, La Mirada, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier. The office is located at 770 the City Drive, Suite 7100, Orange, California, 92868. Their phone number is (714) 703-2840. Any questions, issues, or complaints about these facilities in these locations should be directed to the Southern Regional Adult Care Licensing Office.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for licensed adult and senior care facilities are available online. When you visit the CCLD home page, click on the link on the left side of the page that is titled, "[Licensing Overview](#)." After clicking on "Licensing Overview," click on "Basic Statistics About Licensed Facilities." Then click on the first bullet that says, "Number of State Licensed Facilities, by County." Scroll to the end of the document for the statewide totals. Further breakouts by category and location are still available. Please direct your requests to Sarah Fernandes, Central Operations Branch, at (916) 327-2406. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office. Please see the attached lists for phone numbers and locations of [Adult](#) and [Senior](#) Care Program offices.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about items included in this Update or suggestions for future topics, please contact Barbara Rooney, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Also, please visit our website at www.cclid.ca.gov for copies of Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Jeff Hiratsuka for Jo Frederick ~ 9/12/06)

JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures