

# ICF/MR BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Mental Health Licensure and Certification Section

### Division of Health Service Regulation

July, 2007

NC Department of Health and Human Services

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**The purpose** of this Newsletter is to provide information and updates on ICF/MR issues in North Carolina. We ask that you pass it on to the homes, facilities and organizations that serve your clients. Additionally, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us at: [Jay.Silva@ncmail.net](mailto:Jay.Silva@ncmail.net) or [Denise.Erwin@ncmail.net](mailto:Denise.Erwin@ncmail.net). You may also contact us by calling (919) 855-3795 and asking for an ICF/MR facility consultant or writing to:

ICF/MR Survey Team  
2718 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2718

### IN THIS ISSUE

Comments from the Chief  
Stats for 2007  
Deficiency Free Surveys  
Creative Corner Kudos  
Announcements  
CMS Notes  
General Information

## Comments from the Chief

Greetings! As you may have heard, on 7/5/2007 Governor Mike Easley signed a bill that changed our name from Division of Facility Services to Division of Health Service Regulation (DHSR)-Session Law 2007-182. You will see this reflected in future communication from our section.

In addition, there are two issues I would like to address in my column today – (1) filling vacancies in ICF/MR group homes, and (2) the Waiver process.

1. Filling vacancies: Some providers have expressed that in recent years, with the changes in mental health reform, there has been increasing difficulty figuring out how to find potential clients. I contacted Carol Donin, with the State Operated Services at DMH/DD/SAS, and she was able to offer the following information:

- Carol Donin subscribes to the provider association listserve. When there is an e-mail of a vacancy in an ICF/MR group home, she forwards it to the Local Management Entities (LME)s, identified contact of DD services, and to the Transition Coordinators at the developmental centers. She asks the LME to forward the information to their Contract Case Managers.
- On a quarterly basis, the developmental centers send LMEs a list of individuals whose guardians are interested in exploring ICF/MR community based options.
- The developmental centers notify LMEs of annual plan of care meetings for individuals from the LME catchment area. The LME is expected to send a representative to the plan of care meetings for individuals whose guardians are interested in exploring community based options to begin the process of planning community transition with the guardian and the individuals' treatment team. The LME will know what vacancies are available based on information received from Ms. Donin.
- Please remember that ICF/MR providers must go through the LME before contacting a developmental center about individuals who are interested in moving to the community.

2. Waiver Process:

There are two types of waivers that are applicable to ICF/MRs: Waiver of Certificate of Need Scope and Waiver of State Licensure Rules.

- Waiver of CON Scope: A request is sent from the provider to the CON Section (2704 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2704) where a CON Analyst reviews the request and sends approval back to the provider. The Chief of the MH Licensure & Certification Section is copied on this letter, and in turn forwards a copy to the appropriate ICF/MR Team Leader. A waiver of scope from the CON Section is required only when a facility has a CON to serve children and one or more of the consumers turns 18. The consumer's team agrees that they should stay in the facility.

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- Waiver of State Licensure rule: A request is sent from the provider to the Director of the Division of Health Service Regulation (2701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2701). *For example: If your facility is licensed Under 10A NCAC 27G.5600B (minors with DD), the rule prohibits children and adults from living in the same facility. Therefore, the provider must request a waiver of .5601 (b): "Minor and adult clients shall not reside in the same facility."*

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the regulatory and licensure environment that I may be able to respond to in this column.

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## ICF/MR Surveys for North Carolina Numbers for January through June, 2007

**The most frequently cited deficiencies for the first half of calendar year 2007 are:**

TAGS	Total Times Cited
W-136 Outings must be varied	22**
W-154 Incidents must be investigated	29
W-227 IPP contains relevant training	33
W-242 IPP addresses all needs	27
W-249 IPP provided as written	105
W-257 Review and Revision	50
W-263 Programs must have consent	24**
W-288 Management of Inappropriate Behavior	48
W-369 Drug Administration	36
W-436 Space and Equipment	52

The information listed above does not include citations from life safety code (LSC) surveys. (Note: All Wtags may be evaluated and cited by the General Health Survey)

(\*\* these tags have significantly increased in frequency compared to 2006)

**The following facilities had deficiency-free annual recertification surveys from January through June, 2007:**

Belmont ICF/MR Group Home\*  
Carolina Farms #2, Albemarle  
Daughtry Fields Group Home  
Forest Hills Group Home  
LaGrange Group Home\*  
Life, Inc. Cherry Lane Group Home  
Life, Inc. McKeel Loop Group Home  
Macon ICF/MR Group Home  
Pinebrook Group Home  
RHA/Howells Westridge Group Home  
Rolling Meadows Group Home\*  
Scotthurst I and II Group Homes  
Voca – College Street Group Home\*

(\* Repeat deficiency free survey)

If you did receive a deficiency-free annual survey (General and Life Safety) and we failed to identify your facility, please notify us at [joyce.cooper@ncmail.net](mailto:joyce.cooper@ncmail.net) for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter.

## Creative Corner Kudos

This part of the newsletter is being developed to highlight a facility's creativity in providing services for individuals. The intent is not to outline "best practices," but to acknowledge unique events/services/approaches provided to consumers in ICF/MR facilities.

- Gaston Residential Services, who supports individuals living in Meek Road Group Home, Belmont, Cherryville ICF/MR Group Home, Springdale Lane Group Home and Franklin Street Group Home, continues to aggressively pursue supported employment to all individuals with a majority of their individuals working in the community.

- With the assistance of his team, an individual residing at VOCA - St. John's Church Road Group Home in Charlotte lost in excess of 100 pounds!!!

- Some providers are researching resources at local colleges to assist them with client care and to expand/revamp existing programs. This is a win-win situation for the clients and the colleges.

- Moss Springs I & II in Albemarle developed a new client assessment tool titled "All About Me". The tool is unique in its approach to assessing a client, as the title indicates, the client is the primary source of information in conjunction with family, guardians, direct care staff, medical providers and any other people directly involved with the client. It is written from the perspective of the client; "I currently live at...", "I cannot have the following foods and beverages....", "This is what happens to me when I have seizures...", "I am on the following diet...", "I use the following adaptive equipment...", "This is WHEN I use this (adaptive) equipment..."etc.

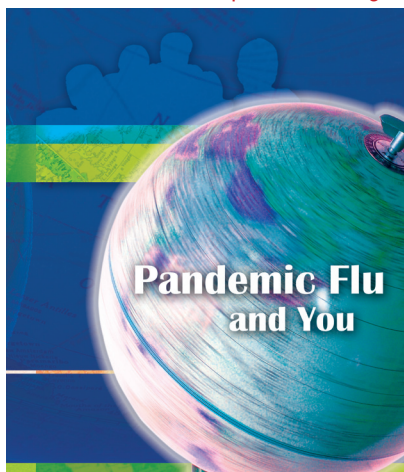
- Individuals living in Rouse's Group Home in Stoneville participated in the ARC of Rockingham County's talent show and were featured in the Eden Daily News.

## Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Notes

- Partnership surveys with CMS consulting staff have continued throughout the first half of 2007, with both large and small residential facilities receiving partnership surveys.

- CMS has asked that providers be made aware of the government web site which links to information about the expected flu pandemic and be presented with a check-sheet for planning responses to this pandemic. In the event of a flu pandemic, ICF/MRs have been designated, across the United States, as "local hospital entities." This means people living in an ICF/MR, no matter what size, will NOT be permitted to triage through emergency rooms, nor will they be allowed to enter hospitals for treatment. ICF/MR providers are expected to provide their own medical treatment. This has been confirmed with North Carolina Emergency Medical Services.

The website is: [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)



## General Information

### W331 Nursing Services

Those who choose to be ICF/MR providers have the responsibility to provide people in their care many services. The regulations address some of these services directly. Nursing services is an example. In the condition of health care services at the standard of nursing services, the provider's responsibility is succinctly described: "The facility must provide clients with nursing services in accordance with their needs." The extent of the services is not restricted or limited. A facility may not decide to limit the extent of nursing services.

The Facility Practices statements include a direction to surveyors: "Individuals on a medical care plan receive 24-hour nursing services as indicated by that plan. Individuals not on a medical care plan receive services as indicated by the assessment, the IPP, and in accordance with any change in health status."

### W445 Evacuation Drills

This regulation is often misconstrued. The regulation states ICF/MR providers must actually evacuate all clients at least annually for each shift. The intent is to prepare the clients for an evacuation in a variety of situations, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, floods etc. This citation is different from W440 (states evacuation drills must be held quarterly for each shift).

## Announcements

Mecklenburg Group Homes for the Autistic purchased Robinhood Group Home.

Macon Country Enterprises purchased Smoky ICF/MR Group Home and Webster Group Home.

RHA recently purchased Country Cove Group Home, Forest Bend Group Home, and Rayside Group Home in the Hendersonville area.

Carolina Farms plans to add home #4 to their group near Herb Farm Circle in Albemarle.



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**Miscellaneous:**

Specific additional information about ICF/MR programs can be found at the CMS ICF/MR Home

Page: <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/icfmr/default.asp>.

All regulations and manuals are on-line and available on CD's.

Providers: Remember the Complaint section contact information is: **(800) 624-3004** or **(919) 733-8499**.

You may also Fax the section at **(919) 715-7724**.

We hope that you have found all the information we have provided helpful and educational.

The ICF/MR Branch has a common goal with the various ICF/MR facilities in North Carolina to ensure the clients have the best life experience available to them.

Please forward any questions/comments to [michele.brandow@ncmail.net](mailto:michele.brandow@ncmail.net) or [joyce.cooper@ncmail.net](mailto:joyce.cooper@ncmail.net).