



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

TO: All Residential Care Home Owners and Administrators

FROM: Kathy Bruni, Manager Alternate Care Unit  
Department of Social Services

DATE: 7/16/2014

RE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Final rules

On January 16, 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule for home and community based services (HCBS) that requires states to review and evaluate home and community based (HCBS) settings, including residential and nonresidential settings. The rule became effective March 17, 2014. States are required to ensure all HCBS settings comply with the new requirements and analyze all settings where HCBS participants receive services to determine if current settings comply with the final rule. The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) has created a **draft** Transition Plan to assess compliance with the HCBS settings rule and identify strategies and timelines for coming into compliance with the new rule. The federal regulation for the final rule can be found on the CMS website at: <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services-and-Supports/Home-and-Community-Based-Services/Home-and-Community-Based-Services.html>

This **draft** transition plan is open for public comment. The public comment period will be open for 30 days to allow all HCBS participants and providers an opportunity to provide input to the Transition Plan. You can review the transition plan at: [www.ct.gov/dss/waivertransition](http://www.ct.gov/dss/waivertransition)

The rules are especially pertinent to Residential Care Homes that have residents who participate in the CT Home Care Program for Elders. All Home Care program participants residing in Residential Care Homes (RCHs) will be surveyed by their care managers to determine if from the participant's perspective, the setting is in compliance with CMS rules. Additionally all RCHs will be given an opportunity to complete an on line survey addressing questions regarding the setting. Questions may include such items as whether the resident is free to decorate their room, have access to food at any time, is permitted to have visitors at any time and has access and control over their personal funds.

Please review the requirements in the links attached and provide your comments to the Department. Your input in this process will be a valuable tool in assessing whether RCHs are currently compliant with the new CMS rules and whether changes can be made that will achieve compliance. The Department views the RCH community to be a valuable component and partner in offering a continuum of care to our program participants.

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Approximately the end of August, you will receive a follow up blast fax providing information on how to complete the on line survey via Survey Monkey. If you do not have web access, you will be provided with an alternate method to complete the survey.

In the interim, any questions, comments or concerns should be addressed to Kathy Bruni at [Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov) or via phone at 860-424-5177. If you utilize an email address as part of your business, please provide it to me as this will facilitate future communications. We look forward to partnering with you as we implement the CMS final rules in Connecticut.

KB:scs