



ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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Memorandum

Date: April 4, 2011

To: Community Mental Health Program Directors

From: Richard L. Harris, Director

Subject: Use of Abuse Information for Employment Screening for Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Providers

The 2007 Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2175 which directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to use information regarding substantiated abuse in conducting pre-employment background checks for DHS employees and the authority to require this for employment with providers. DHS implemented this for DHS employees and volunteers. The provisions in HB 2175 also apply to the newly formed Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

In light of recent issues regarding the abuse of vulnerable citizens, DHS and OHA are implementing the use of substantiated abuse findings as a part of conducting background checks for prospective employees of DHS and OHA providers. These checks will begin on April 15, 2011.

Temporary rules will be filed and a Rule Advisory Committee for permanent rules is being organized. The temporary rule will detail the process. DHS Background Check Unit will conduct the fitness determination when a prospective employee has been identified with a significant finding of abuse. This process will only apply to providers that are currently required to conduct a background check through DHS. You will be sent the temporary rules as soon as they have been filed. If you have any questions please contact Michael Morris at 503-947-5539.