TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
1-888-963-7111
TTY: 1-800-735-2989
www.dshs.state.tx.us

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

Broadcast MSG BHP#103

June 13, 2013

To: Mental Health Directors
Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)

From: Kerry Raymond, LCSW, Assistant Director of State Hospital Section

Re: Coordination Process for State Hospital Section, DADS-SSLC and MHA's regarding coordination of disposition for aftercare of certain dually diagnosed pt with MH and IDD issues

Summary

A small group of staff from DADS, DSHS Hospitals Section and MHA's (Executive Directors Shelley Smith and Barbara Tate) have been meeting to coordinate processes and improve continuity of care for patients with dual diagnoses of IDD and psychiatric conditions.

One of the specific issues we are working on is that of patients who are awaiting admission to a state supported living center. We have discovered that there are times when the centers and the hospitals do not have the same understanding of recommendations and/or of obstacles that may be delaying admission. Sometimes patients in the hospitals are listed with their status noted as having been referred to a state living center when the referral has not been finalized. There have on occasion been misunderstandings between Local Authority Mental Health continuity of care workers, state hospital staff, and LA IDD staff resulting in delayed application processing for patients or other complexities affecting disposition. Consequently, Sandy Ray of DADS is sending us the list of applications received from the LAs and the status of application to include other factors.

It is our hope that this will decrease the number of communication problems and help to expedite admissions into the SSLC.

Process

We will be sending monthly notification to the Executive Director of each Center of any patients with IDD identified as being from your area that have been recommended for SSLC placement by the MHA and state hospital treatment team, along with their referral and admission status from DADS. It is our hope that this will decrease the number of communication problems and help to expedite admissions into the SSLC. If you believe there are patients who should be on the wait list to SSLC or have alternative recommendations, please contact me at (512) 206-5196.