



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

August 16, 2011

To: Day Activity and Health Services Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 11-80
Ensuring Health and Safety at Day Activity and Health Services Facilities

This letter is being issued to provide procedures for handling threats to health and safety at a Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS) facility.

The DAHS facility must take immediate action to protect the individuals and staff in the facility when an individual attending the facility exhibits behavior that may result in imminent danger to the health and safety of other individuals that receive DAHS and/or DAHS staff. This may require removing the individual from the facility or away from other individuals and/or contacting the local authorities (police, sheriff's department, or mental health authorities) to ensure safety. The facility may make a referral for appropriate crisis intervention services to the division of Adult Protective Services of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The facility must immediately suspend services for the individual.

The DAHS facility must verbally inform the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) case manager by the following DADS workday of the reason for the immediate suspension and follow up with written notification to DADS within seven workdays of verbal notification in accordance with 40 TAC §98.207(b) and the DAHS Provider Manual Section 5840, Suspension of Services.

An interdisciplinary team meeting must be arranged at the earliest opportunity to determine if the issue can be resolved and services continued. If the threat to health and safety was serious enough, services may be terminated immediately.

If the individual reapplies for services at a later date, the policy outlined in 40 TAC §48.3902 applies and the individual must provide information or authorize collateral contacts to verify the individual is no longer a threat.

For questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact DADS Policy Development and Oversight at dahs@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Teresa Richard
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation
TR:cp