



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

December 13, 2013

The Honorable Ralph Hise, Co-Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina Senate
Room 1026, Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Louis Pate, Co-Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina Senate
Room 406, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Senators Hise and Pate:

On August 15, 2013, the Department of Health and Human Services ("Department") submitted to you a plan to implement a Statewide Telepsychiatry Program pursuant to Section 12A.2B of Session Law 2013-360. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a change to the section entitled "Liability Requirements for Participation in Telepsychiatry" on page 14 of the plan.

As you will recall, Section 12A.2B.(a)(4) specifies that the plan include "[r]equirements for liability coverage related to participation in telepsychiatry." The previously submitted plan required referring sites, i.e., the hospital at which the patient is physically located, to have and maintain minimum coverage limits of \$3M/\$5M. In the course of contracting with referring sites to participate in the Statewide Telepsychiatry Program, it was determined that some hospitals do not maintain this minimum coverage limit. Thus, the Department is amending the plan to require referring sites to maintain minimum coverage limits of \$1/\$3M along with a minimum of \$5M umbrella coverage. The Department also wishes to more clearly state the minimum coverage limits required for consulting providers.

Accordingly, the section entitled "Liability Requirements for Participation in Telepsychiatry" on page 14 of the Statewide Telepsychiatry Program Plan is hereby revised to read as follows:

Liability Requirements for Participation in Telepsychiatry

The project will utilize a consultation model to provide psychiatric consultations to ED physicians. All parties will be required to carry appropriate liability insurance. Minimum coverage limits for each consulting provider will be \$1M/\$3M. Minimum coverage limits for each referring site will be \$1M/\$3M along with a minimum of \$5M umbrella coverage. The liability will reside, as it usually does, with the medical practice or individual provider.

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Please feel free to contact me at mark.payne@dhhs.nc.gov if you have any questions about this revision to the Statewide Telepsychiatry Program Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Payne", with a stylized flourish at the end.

S. Mark Payne
Chief of Staff

cc: Susan Jacobs Robin Cummings
Denise Thomas Dave Richard
Patricia Porter Sandy Terrell
Sarah Riser Chris Collins
Kristi Hoff Frank Kirschbaum
Legislative Library (one hard copy)

Representative Mark Hollo
Representative Susan Martin
Representative Justin Burr
Senator Ralph Hise
Brandon Greife