



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

October 6, 2009

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

The Honorable Martin Nesbitt, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 300B, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Senator Nesbitt:

Under the provisions of Session Law 2009-0451, Section 10.68A.(a) (2) c., the Department of Health and Human Services was mandated to complete a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, on or before October 1, 2009, on the plan to transition children from Therapeutic Camps.

The Department is requesting an extension of the submission date on or before October 31, 2009. The Divisions of Medical Assistance and Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse, and Therapeutic Camp providers have met to initiate planning for implementation of this provision. As the initial step, providers have just recently submitted the proposed plan for compliance with the provisions of the Session Law. Major components of the plan submitted by the providers include a gradual phase down in the number of children and adolescents served in these settings through April 2010 and allowing children already in the camps to complete their treatment without disruption. During the transition process, camp staff will coordinate discharges through each child's Local Management Entity System of Care Coordinator and referral to community based services. After April 2010, there will be no Medicaid funded children or adolescents served in Therapeutic Camps. Therapeutic Camps are in the process of converting their Medicaid funded services to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility services.

The additional thirty days will allow for completion of the review process, assuring the final plan meets the required budgetary reductions while also providing a final detailed report.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me Dr. Patti Forest, Acting Assistant Director, Clinical Policy and Programs of the Division of Medical Assistance at (919) 855-4260.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lanier", written over a large, stylized, cursive flourish.

Lanier M. Cansler

LMC:pf

Location: 101 Blair Drive • Adams Building • Raleigh, N.C. 27603
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cc: Allen Feezor
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