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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
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Jennifer L. Welch
Manager, Accreditation Committee
The Joint Commission
One renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181

Dear Ms. Welch,

On July 18, 2013, the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) received notification from The Joint Commission (TJC) that the Accreditation Committee had determined to place SNAMHS in Preliminary Denial of Accreditation (PDA) status. We were provided until today, July 25, to request a review hearing of the PDA, if desired.

TJC visited SNAMHS on May 2-3, 2013 to conduct a “for cause complaint survey.” As a result of this review, TJC recommended an accreditation decision of preliminary denial of accreditation, due to activities that took place prior to May 2-3, 2013.

TJC also conducted a triennial “full accreditation survey” on May 14-17, 2013. On May 30, 2013, TJC notified SNAMHS that the recommended accreditation decision was accreditation with follow up survey. Further, TJC surveyed the SNAMHS laboratory on June 4, 2013, and recommended accreditation. Notably, during the “full accreditation survey,” TJC also recommended accreditation for other Behavioral Health Services (i.e., Program for Assertive Community Treatment, Service Coordination, and Peer Support).

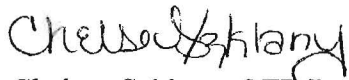
Follow up surveys by TJC for “Medicare Conditions of Participation” conducted on July 01, 2013 (full), and July 2, 2013 (for cause), reported that all needed improvements were made, and that SNAMHS was in compliance with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation.

Based on teleconferences with TJC staff over the past few days, SNAMHS learned that because SNAMHS is on two review tracks (one “for cause” and one for “full survey”), the Accreditation Committee will only consider the worst decision track (i.e., the May 2-3, 2013 “for cause complaint survey”). Therefore, the accreditation decision from the “for cause survey” trumps the accreditation decision from the “full survey”, even though the subsequent TJC surveys found SNAMHS to have completed all needed improvements and recommended accreditation.

As a result of our conversations with you and your office, SNAMHS also understands that the only information that would be considered during an appeal of the PDA is the information SNAHMS provided prior to the date the PDA was recommended. All of the improvements that SNAMHS personnel have made and all the new processes for oversight and sustained compliance will also not be considered. However, it is our understanding that should SNAMHS reapply for accreditation, SNAMHS could do so immediately, and that during a reapplication for accreditation process, the improvements and progress made can be considered by the Accreditation Committee.

For the above described reasons, SNAMHS will not be appealing the preliminary denial of accreditation. Rather, SNAMHS will be immediately reapplying for accreditation.

Sincerely,



Chelsea Szklany, OTR/L
SNAMHS Administrator