



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

May 10, 2012

Dear Stakeholder:

I am pleased to announce the consolidation of several Department of Public Welfare (DPW) licensing and inspection functions into a single Bureau of Human Services Licensing (BHSL).

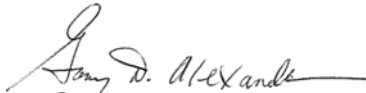
This initiative will involve the consolidation of licensing functions currently administered in several DPW program offices into a single administrative bureau within the department's Office of Administration. By consolidating licensing functions, the department seeks to increase efficiency by eliminating duplicative administrative structures, and to improve its regulatory protection of vulnerable populations.

We take this step in recognition that human service licensing is a professional discipline, and that a single, consolidated licensing bureau can provide the highest level of professional development and support for inspectors, and thereby, provide better health, safety and rights protections for people served in licensed settings. In addition, the consolidation will provide better, more consistent across-the-board decision-making for regulatory application, interpretation and enforcement, particularly for those human services providers who serve multiple populations.

The initial phase of the initiative, scheduled for July 1, 2012, will involve Licensing Management and Research (licensing databases and managerial support), and Adult Residential Licensing (personal care homes) from the Office of Administration; Community Home, Family Living Home, Adult Training Facility, and Vocational Facility licensing from the Office of Developmental Programs; and Child Residential Licensing from the Office of Children, Youth and Families. Other department licensing functions will be included at later dates.

I hope you share our optimism for the success of this initiative. Please feel free to contact Mr. Ron Melusky, Director of Human Services Licensing, at 717-783-3670.

Sincerely,


Gary D. Alexander
Secretary

c: OA, ODP, OCYF Stakeholders

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY