

UPDATE ON STATUS OF THE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT RULES  
February 27, 2006

The Commission for MH/DD/SAS held a public hearing on the proposed rules on January 18, 2006 2:00 PM at Holiday Inn (North) – 2805 Highwoods Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604. After considering all comments, the Commission for MH/DD/SAS took final action on the rules. Final action by the Commission for MH/DD/SAS included revisions based on the comments received. The rules were reviewed at the February 16, 2006 meeting of the Rules Review Commission (RRC). The RRC received written objections from at least 10 persons requesting review by the legislature. This means the rules are subject to legislative disapproval in the next legislative session of the General Assembly which is scheduled to convene on May 9, 2006.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) continues to believe that the new rules are necessary to better safeguard the health and safety of children and adolescents served in these facilities. DHHS is currently exploring options to allow the rules to become effective as close as possible to the proposed effective date of March 1, 2006.