



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

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DDS TRANSMITTAL# 20-01

TO: All Developmental Disabilities Administration Residential and Day Services Providers

FROM: Crystal Thomas, Program Manager, State Office of Policy, Planning, and Innovation

DATE: March 8, 2021

RE: Revised Health and Wellness Standards for the Developmental Disabilities Administration

Effective April 1, 2021, The Department on Disability Services (DDS) releases the Revised Health and Wellness Standards applicable to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) residential and day providers and the people DDA supports. These standards are revised to provide updated evidence-based practice, Board of Nursing updates, additional information, and resources. The standards went through an interdisciplinary process of review from several departments and other agencies, including Service Coordination, Human Rights and Advocacy, Psychologists, external consultants, and stakeholders. The changes provide a clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities, updated references to other DDA policies and procedures, greater inclusion of day programs' involvement in the health promotion of the people served, and more oversight of those in natural homes. Three additional standards were added.

DDA residential and day providers are required to read these standards in detail and note all changes within them. To assist in understanding what has changed in this version, along with this transmittal and the revised standards, DDA's Health and Wellness Team provides a memorandum entitled, "Changes in the Revised Health and Wellness Standards," which includes a non-exhaustive list of revisions and additional highlights.

DDS would like to thank the Home and Community-Based Services Policy Advisory Group for reviewing the draft Revised Health and Wellness Standards.

If you have any questions about this transmittal or the Revised Health and Wellness Standards, please contact DDS's Supervisory Nurse Consultants: Chioma Nwachukwu, DNP, APRN, PHCNS-BC, at (202) 615-8268 or chioma.nwachukwu@dc.gov; or Titilayo Ilori, MSN, RN, at (202) 590-7536 or titilayo.iloride@dc.gov.