




GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

DDS TRANSMITTAL #19-16

TO: All Department on Disability Services, Developmental Disabilities
Administration Providers of Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals
with Intellectual Disabilities and Residential Habilitation Services

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

DATE: August 21, 2019

RE: DDS Follow-up to DC Health Statements of Deficiency

The purpose of this transmittal is to announce a change in how the Department on Disability Services (DDS), Quality Assurance and Performance Management Administration (QAPMA), will follow through on DC Health Statement of Deficiency (SOD) reports for federal certification and licensure. As you know, DDS currently receives SOD reports from DC Health on a regular basis. DDS tracks these and enters each deficiency into the MCIS Issue Resolution System for follow-up and remediation.

DDS received feedback that our current process is unnecessarily burdensome because the QAPMA team is following through on issues that DC Health is already holding providers accountable for resolving. Additionally, at times there have been conflicting deadlines and requirements for remediation. DDS has reviewed this process and discussed this with DC Health.

Effective immediately, a QAPMA Management Analyst will continue to track findings from the SOD reports. However, with the exception of findings of condition or immediate jeopardy, DDS will not enter them into the MCIS Issue Resolution System and SOD reports will not generate issues for providers. Instead, the provider's assigned Quality Resource Specialist (QRS) will review each SOD report and, as part of the next regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, check in on the sustainability of the provider's remediation. The QRS is responsible for raising any health or safety concern to their supervisor for discussion of appropriate follow-up. The QRS will also trend the findings from the provider's SOD reports and may require that a matter is included in the provider's Provider Performance Review (PPR) Continuing Improvement Plan for systemic resolution. The QRS may also make recommendations to the DDS Deputy Director for QAPMA for sanctions.

DDS appreciates the ongoing discussion and feedback on this issue. If you have questions, please contact the DDS Supervisory, Quality Resource Specialists, Dianne Jackson at dianne.jackson3@dc.gov or (202) 664-7471; and Tasha Klusmann at Tashaklusmann@dc.gov or (202) 258-9520.