May, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Attached you will find the newly updated Procedural Guidelines for Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community (MHRT/C) Certification. These guidelines reflect two significant changes in MHRT/C certification, as follows:

- On April 1, 2007 a new certification for crisis workers took effect. The MHRT/Crisis Services Provider (MHRT/CSP) certification is now required for all Crisis Intervention Services providers in adult mental health (and Crisis Resolution Services providers in children’s mental health). This requirement replaced the MHRT/C requirement for crisis intervention and crisis resolution workers.

- As of January 1, 2009 all individuals seeking Full MHRT/C certification must complete the Vocational Aspects of Disability requirement. The Group Process course will no longer be accepted as of that date.

These changes were made as part of the Office of Adult Mental Health Services’ ongoing effort to ensure that the mental health workforce receives relevant, up-to-date training that is recovery-oriented. In the case of the MHRT/CSP certification, the training is now more closely focused on the body of knowledge needed by crisis workers. The change in the MHRT/C requirements reflects an increased understanding in the mental health field of the contribution employment can make toward recovery.

As you read through these Procedural Guidelines for MHRT/C Certification, it is important to anticipate the impact of the January 1, 2009 Vocational Aspects of Disability requirement. Please keep in mind the following:

- Individuals who expect to complete the Full MHRT/C requirements after 1/1/09 must take the Vocational Aspects of Disability Course, not the Group Process course.

- Not all of the academic programs currently listed as pre-approved for Full MHRT/C will necessarily remain on the list as of 1/1/09. Those programs that do not add the Vocational Aspects of Disability (or comparable) course will be changed from pre-approval for Full MHRT/C to pre-approval for Provisional Level B MHRT/C.

The Office of Adult Mental Health Services and the Center for Learning staff are available to answer any questions you may have regarding these changes. You may also refer to www.cfl-muskie.org.

Thank you for your interest in promoting mental health for Maine’s citizens.

Sincerely,

Ronald Welch, Director
Office of Adult Mental Health Services

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