

John Elias Baldacci
Governor



John R. Nicholas
Commissioner

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
40 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0040

October 15, 2004

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Health and Human Services, Adult Mental Health Services has modified the Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community (MHRT/C) certification process in response to providers' concerns regarding the recruitment and retention of qualified staff. A group of stakeholders including providers and consumers met in late August to discuss this issue and generate possible solutions that would ease recruitment difficulties while still assuring qualified staff. The modification described here represents the agreement reached as a result of those discussions. The purpose of this change is to enable providers to recruit individuals who have earned Associates, Bachelors, or Masters degrees in fields that are human service related but that do not necessarily qualify for a MHRT/C Provisional under the current guidelines.

Effective November 1, 2004, an additional certification level (Provisional MHRT/C, Level A) will be added to the MHRT/C certification program for individuals with human service related degrees. The list of Level A degrees is enclosed. This certificate will be issued to individuals with related degrees for a one-year period during which they must complete the five course requirements for the Provisional MHRT/C (renamed the Provisional MHRT/C, Level B). It is the Department's strong recommendation that those with Level A certification make the Psychosocial Rehabilitation course requirement a top priority and receive that training as soon as possible. During the one year under Provisional MHRT/C Level A certification, individuals are also required to receive at least one (1) hour of individual clinical supervision per week. This requirement is in addition to the supervision required by mental health licensing.

In order to qualify for Provisional MHRT/C (Level B) status, applicants must meet the five specific course requirements outlined in the 2002 Guidelines. Individuals qualifying for Provisional Level B certification will continue to have two (2) full years to complete the remaining course requirements for Full MHRT/C certification.

Agencies authorized to issue their own certificates may contact Scott Bernier at the Center for Learning (scott.bernier@maine.gov) to request a template for the new Level A and Level B certificates.

Please note that this is the only change to the *2002 Procedural Guidelines for MHRT/C Certification*. Policies regarding extensions, course waivers and tuition reimbursement remain unchanged. It is our hope that this new policy will allow persons who have earned human service related degrees to enter the behavioral health field more easily. Thank you for your continued commitment to this meaningful and important work.

Sincerely,

Christine Robinson
Adult Mental Health Services

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Human Services - Related Degrees
Associates, Bachelors and/or Masters level
Accepted for Provisional MHRT/C Level A Certification

Education:

- Para-education
- Community Health Education
- Special Education

Health/Human Services:

- Behavioral Health
- Behavioral Health & Human Services
- Behavioral Health Sciences
- Behavioral Science
- Community Health
- Health & Human Services
- Human Services
- Public Health

Human Development:

- Human Development
- Human Development and Family Studies

Mental Health:

- Mental Health Counseling

Nursing

Occupational/Physical Therapy:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy

Psychology:

- Applied Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Psychology
- Psychology & Social Relations
- School Psychology

Rehabilitation:

- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation Services
- Rehabilitation Sciences and Counseling
- Social Rehabilitation
- Speech/Hearing Sciences
- Speech-Language Pathology/Communication Sciences & Disorders

Social Services:

- Social Services
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

Sociology:

- B.A. Sociology

Therapy:

- A.S. Therapeutic Recreation
- B.A. Art Therapy
- B.A. Music Therapy
- B.A. Movement Therapy