



PROVIDER ALERT



Alert # 8 10-28-2011 – HCAL, HCBK, HCCH, HCCK, HCER, HCNE, HCNC, HCYA

Guidelines to Ensure Affirmative Environments and Clinically Appropriate Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Intersex (LGBTQI) Consumers and their Family Members

On January 7, 2011, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) issued Bulletin# OMHSAS-11-01 and Bulletin# OMHSAS-11-02 addressing the needs of LGBTQI consumers. These Bulletins can be accessed by typing the Bulletin numbers into the Bulletin Search section on the DPW website: (<http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/olddpw/bulletinsearch.aspx>). The bulletin aims to develop culturally affirming environments and to increase access to providers with training and experience with LGBTQI individuals and their families.

In response to this bulletin, we are undertaking a survey of our provider network to determine if there is sufficient number and geographic distribution of qualified provider agencies certified as LGBTQI-Affirming Providers.

In order to qualify as an LGBTQI-Affirming Provider, a provider agency must meet all of the criteria as outlined in the bulletin. In particular, a provider must retain on its staff or under contract, at least one full-time certified LGBTQI-Trained Clinician. In order to qualify for certification as an LGBTQI-Trained Clinician, a provider must present the following two sets of documentation:

1. **Documentation of Education** – Evidence of completion of a clinical university degree of at least the master's level.
2. **Documentation of LGBTQI-Specific Training or Experience** – This must include at least one of the following:
 - a. **OMHSAS training:** Certificate of Completion of the OMHSAS LGBTQI Clinical Training Curriculum.
 - b. **Other training:** Documentation of completion of a 3-credit graduate-level course or its equivalent in terms of time and intensity, specifically covering issues in affirmative counseling with LGBTQI clients, covering, in depth, issues related to both sexual orientation and gender identify.

Or

 - c. **Clinical experience:** Documentation of at least 50 supervised clinical contact hours with LGBTQI clients in an agency which advertises an intention of providing competent and affirmative services to LGBTQI people, consistent with services considered competent and affirmative by the major mental health professional associations.

If you wish to be identified as an LGBTQI-Affirming Provider, please submit a listing of staff who you believe meet the requirements along with copies of all required documentation to the following address:

Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
One Chatham Center
Suite 700
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Attn: Bertha Sager
or
Fax (412) 667-5509