

Education of Children in Private Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

This is a report of the current status, pertaining to the initial joint report, as required by G.S. 122C-450.4, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. "Pursuant to S.L. 2014-100, Section 8.39, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) now collaborate to facilitate the delivery of educational services by the private Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)". The reporting requirements include (i) the annual number of children, by age, residing in a PRTF both with and without an Individualized Education Program, (ii) the average length of stay of these children, (iii) the types of educational services, including number of hours each type of service has been provided, (iv) the costs and outcomes of providing educational services, and (v) recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering educational services to children residing in PRTFs.

Over the past year, staff members from DHHS and NC DPI have met collaboratively to develop the process and procedures for approving, funding, monitoring and supporting educational programs in PRTFs. The leadership team is composed of:

- Eric Harbour, Child Lead, Community Mental Health Section
Department of Health and Human Services-Division of Mental Health (DMH),
Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Substance Abuse Services (SAS)
- Spencer Clark, Section Chief, Addiction and Management Operations
Administrator, NC State Opioid Treatment Authority
- Heather McAllister, State System of Care Coordinator
- Stephanie Gilliam, Chief, Mental Health Licensure & Certification Section
Division of Health Service Regulation (DHSR)
- William J. Hussey, Director, Exceptional Children Division, Department of Public Instruction
- Carol Ann M. Hudgens, Section Chief, Policy, Monitoring and Audit
Exceptional Children Division, Department of Public Instruction

The following outcomes have been achieved.

- DHHS DMH/DD/SAS is developing contracts with each PRTF provider eligible for funding for the payment for educational services provided at each facility. At a minimum, there will be one teacher for every 14 students.
- DHHS has developed a child census and will survey PRTF providers to determine accurate allocations of the appropriated funds.
- PRTFs will be submitting a budget of anticipated needs for teacher(s), supplies, computers, and other educational services.
- DMH, DHSR, and DPI are working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to make the partnership and execution of the legislation as seamless and possible.
- All NC PRTFs will qualify with the exception of the one state owned PRTF as indicated in SL2014-100, Section 8.39.
- The PRTF Exceptional Children (EC) Program Approval process has been established and communicated to PRTFs.
- PRTF Workgroups have been established and will be focusing on: Instructional Day/Educational Services; Procedures/Process/Personnel; Educational Funds and Professional Development. Workgroups are scheduled to begin in January 2015.
- The following PRTFs have participated in an on-site visit as part of the PRTF EC Program Approval: Strategic Behavior Center in Leland; Strategic Behavior Center in Charlotte; Youth Focus in Greensboro; Nova in Kinston; Strategic Behavior Center in Garner; and Brynn Marr.

- Approval status will be communicated via a monitoring report provided by the Exceptional Children Division to DHHS and the PRTF requesting approval.
- Approval will be required annually through Self-Assessment reporting with on-site visits conducted every three years.
- Communication regarding licensure and program approval will be communicated between DHHS and DPI annually.

DHHS and NC DPI continue to meet bi-weekly to streamline communication; process, procedures and supports provided to PRTFs. Initial on-site visits have successfully identified educational programs in place. Recommendations have been made for the strengthening of exceptional children services with professional development opportunities to be provided early 2015.

You may contact the following members of the leadership team for additional questions.

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