

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 340, MS 3-24
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-2716



August 10, 2007

TO: COMMUNITY CARE FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS

To promote the health, safety, and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities, legislation was passed in 1998 authorizing the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish the Direct Support Professional (DSP) training, a competency-based training program mandatory for all direct support staff (and administrators who provide direct support) working in licensed community care facilities. The DSP training is divided into two equal segments of 35 hours each to be completed in successive years for a total of 70 hours. There is also an optional challenge test for each 35-hour training segment. DSPs that pass the challenge test for either segment are not required to take that specific training segment. Through fiscal year 2005-06, nearly 60,000 DSPs have completed the training requirement via either the 70 hour training or the challenge test.

This letter is to provide notice that as part of DDS' ongoing quality improvement activities, beginning September 2007 the DSP training Year 1 and Year 2 challenge tests will incorporate a skill check component. The skill check component will require DSPs to demonstrate how to correctly assist consumers with the self-administration of medications, which aligns the challenge test with the requirements of the 70-hour training.

Year 1 or Year 2 curriculum materials continue to be available online at http://www.dds.ca.gov/DSPT/DSPT_guides.cfm. General information about the DSP training can be found at www.dds.ca.gov/DSPT/DSPT_main.cfm. A training video on the self-administration of medications is available through the DDS website for \$5.00 in either English or Spanish. To see a list of all available videos, and to obtain information on ordering, visit http://www.dds.ca.gov/tvcenter/tv_videos.cfm#videos.

For additional information, please contact DDS at 1-800-622-8904, or email questions to ccfdsp@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

JULIA MULLEN, Deputy Director
Community Services and Supports Division

cc: Regional Center Directors
Regional Center DSPT Liaisons
Regional Occupational Centers and Programs Coordinators

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"