

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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January 20, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Directors, Charter Schools

From: Mary N. Watson, Director
Exceptional Children Division

Subject: DHHS Service Definition Changes Begin March 20

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has new service definitions for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services that will go into effect on March 20. Notification about service definition approval came to DHHS in late December, 2005. These service definition changes will have implications for all students in public schools who receive mental health, developmental disability or substance abuse services in school provided by private providers and paid for by Medicaid or a funding stream of the Local Management Entity (LME). It is important that schools, LMEs, private providers and families work together to insure that students still receive the supports they need to be successful at school.

DHHS has indicated that 670 students in schools in North Carolina who are diagnosed as developmentally delayed without a second diagnosis of mental illness will no longer qualify for a CBS/CS worker under the new service definitions. The new definition for developmental therapy submitted by North Carolina was denied by the federal agency. These students are likely to be identified as students with autism, mental disabilities or severe and profound disabilities for special education services. It is very important that the Individual Education Program Teams for these 670 students meet to be sure that supports and services are in place when a CBS worker is no longer available on March 20. Local school systems must identify the students that will be affected and create the appropriate plans for these students.

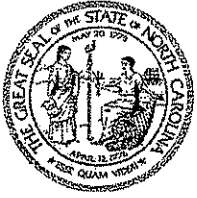
Additional information will be available in early March from LMEs to help schools and school systems develop plans for the transition of services provided to other students affected by the change in service definitions. The LMEs will invite your school system to send representatives to a meeting concerning this issue. It is anticipated that for all other student groups, there will not be an abrupt change in services. These changes will be more gradual and should involve joint planning between schools, LMEs, private providers and families.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Mary N. Watson, Director | mwatson@dpi.state.nc.us

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If you have questions about this memo, please contact Diann Irwin, 919-781-3651 or dirwin@dpi.state.nc.us Through collaboration between schools, agencies, providers and families, the needed supports can be provided for all students.

MNW/di

- c. Elsie Leak, Associate Superintendent
- Janice Davis, Deputy Superintendent
- Exceptional Children Division

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