



LICENSING ALERT

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Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure
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LICENSED DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROVIDERS USE OF SCA ASSESSMENTS AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPING CLIENT'S PSYCHOSOCIAL HISTORIES

Pursuant to 4 Pa. Code § 257.4, a Single County Authority (SCA) is required to develop a comprehensive confidential history, including significant medical, social, occupational and family information. While SCAs are not licensed, they are mandated under this separate regulation to perform functions related to intake, evaluation, and referral; consequently, they perform similar tasks as licensed intake, evaluation, and referral providers. Previously, it was generally accepted that licensed treatment providers could only use the assessment from another licensed treatment provider as the basis for developing a client's psychosocial history.

The Department of Health announces that effective immediately, with appropriate client consent, licensed drug and alcohol (D&A) treatment providers may use a SCA's D&A assessment as the basis for developing a client's psychosocial history. The Department recognizes that the SCA assessment may provide the framework for the required assessment, however, it may not meet all of the regulatory requirements for a psychosocial history. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the licensed facility to ensure that it is in compliance with the corresponding requirements at 28 Pa. Code.

In addition, the following conditions must be satisfied in order for the SCA psychosocial history to be utilized:

- (1) the psychosocial history must have been developed within the last six months;

- (2) the psychosocial history, with the client's informed written consent, must have been obtained AT or BEFORE the client's admission from the referring SCA; and
- (3) upon receipt of the psychosocial history, the receiving project/facility must review it for completeness and accuracy with the client and document such review by dated signature of both the facility staff conducting the review and the client.

If the psychosocial history is incomplete, the receiving project/facility is responsible for further development of the historical data. The receiving project/facility is then responsible for the development of the psychosocial evaluation, treatment plans and all other components of the clinical record.

The use of this assessment document is voluntary and at the discretion of the treatment provider. D&A treatment providers are not required to use the SCA's D&A assessment.

Should you have any questions regarding this Alert, please contact Division staff at (717) 783-8675.