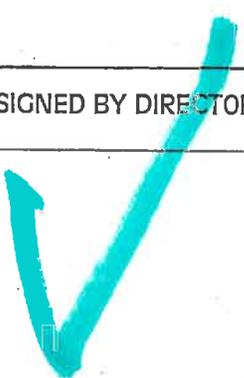


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Walddrep</i>	DATE <i>2-20-13</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000257</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



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FEB 19 2013

February 13, 2013

Mr. Tony Keck, Director
Department of Health & Human Services
1801 Main Street
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Keck:

As you may be aware, The Joint Commission has developed a Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) certification program that is currently available to organizations accredited under the Joint Commission's Hospital and Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation programs. I am writing to inform you of a new initiative underway at the Joint Commission for the development of a certification program for Behavioral Health Homes. This certification program will complement the Behavioral Health Care Accreditation program, and is consistent with the new health care reform efforts to improve the coordination, quality and efficiency of health services. At this time, the Joint Commission is tentatively planning a January 2014 launch date for the Behavioral Health Home certification program.

The Joint Commission is aware that many state Medicaid agencies are at different stages of considering support for Behavioral Health Home models. While some agencies are going through the process of developing their own standards for the designation of a Behavioral Health Home, other agencies will rely on external bodies, such as the Joint Commission, for an independent evaluation. If your state agency is currently developing a mechanism for designating providers as Behavioral Health Homes, we respectfully ask that you consider including the Joint Commission's Behavioral Health Home certification program as an acceptable option for providers in demonstrating compliance with the Behavioral Health Home concepts.

The standards for the Behavioral Health Home program are currently under development and will be reviewed by an external advisory group in March 2013. Once feedback has been provided by this advisory group, the draft standards will be posted on the Joint Commission's website for public comment. As a key stakeholder of this initiative, we welcome your feedback on the draft standards. If you would like to have your name added to our distribution list, please contact me at jhoppe@jointcommission.org or 630-792-5261. In addition, if you or your designee would like further information regarding The Joint Commission's Behavioral Health Home program, Mary Cesare-Murphy and I will make ourselves available to meet with you and your colleagues to provide a better understanding of the Joint Commission's program.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hoppe'.

Jennifer M. Hoppe, MPH
Senior Associate Director, State and External Relations
The Joint Commission
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181
Phone: 630-792-5261
Email: jhoppe@jointcommission.org

cc: Mary Cesare-Murphy, Ph.D, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Care Program, The Joint Commission

www.jointcommission.org

Headquarters
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
630 792 5000 Voice



The Joint Commission

One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tony Keck, Director
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