

Explanation of Changes without Regulatory Effect

Introduction and Purpose

The Department of Health Care Services (Department) proposes changes without regulatory effect to amend California Code of Regulations, title 9, sections 1904(i) and 1913(c). The amendments are necessary to update the address of the Program area responsible for certifying the mental health program within a community treatment facility (CTF).

The Department proposes these amendments as changes without regulatory effect because they do not materially alter any requirement, right, responsibility, condition, prescription or other regulatory element of any California Code of Regulations provision.

Background

The Department's mission is to provide Californians with access to affordable, integrated, high-quality health care, including medical, dental, mental health, substance use treatment services, and long-term care. The Department's Behavioral Health Services consists of the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division, Licensing and Certification Division and the Community Services Division (CSD). CSD is responsible for various behavioral health programs and services for adults and children. Within the CSD, the Continuum of Mental Health Care (CMHC) Section provides oversight and is responsible for approving and annually certifying the mental health programs of licensed residential facilities, including CTFs.

The California Community Care Facilities Act, as provided under Health and Safety Code sections 1500 through 1567.94, establishes the framework for and defines a CTF. These facilities are secure community residential treatment facilities providing intensive mental health treatment services to children who are considered to be "high risk" and are diagnosed as Severely Emotionally Disturbed. CTFs provide an alternative to state hospitalization or out-of-state placement, enabling children with mental health needs to receive treatment in a less restrictive setting.

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4094 authorizes the Department to establish, by regulations, standards for CTFs. The regulations that govern Department certification of CTFs are located in California Code of Regulations, title 9, sections 1900 through 1938.

Proposed Amendments

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 100(a), the Department proposes the following amendments to specify accurately and consistently the Department mailing information for sending applications, withdrawals and complaints regarding CTF programs.

Subsection 1904(i):

- Amend the addressee by deleting "State of California," before the Department's name.

- Update the Mail Stop (MS) number from “2800” to “2633.”

These amendments are necessary to provide consistent and accurate mailing information for sending applications for mental health program certification and requests for application withdrawal to the Department.

Subsection 1913(c):

- Clarify the addressee by adding “Department of Health Care Services.”
- Update the Mail Stop (MS) number from “2800” to “2633.”

These amendments are necessary to update the name and address of the specific division within the Department that is responsible for certifying the mental health program within a CTF.