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MEMORANDUM

TO: AAA Executive Directors **NOTICE #:** 012705-1-T-PE

FROM: Susan M. Tucker
Interim Secretary

DATE: January 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Notice of Transmittal: Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Responsibilities in Serving Adults with Severe Mental Illness [Defined in Florida as Adults with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)]

The purpose of this Notice of Transmittal is to identify the ADRC responsibilities in serving adults with severe and persistent mental illness.

In an effort to clarify the Department's expectations for services to adults with SPMI at the ADRC pilot sites, let me refer back to the original goal and vision of the Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The goal of the program is to empower individuals to make informed choices and to streamline access to long-term support. The shared federal vision is the integration of long-term support resources for consumers into a single coordinated system. The ADRC initiative offers the states the flexibility to develop different models for partnership between the aging and disability communities. This collaboration is taking different forms throughout the nation as each grantee state determines which entities will serve as pilot sites.

As you know, Florida has selected a partnership with the disability population of adults with SPMI. These are persons with a very specific diagnosis of a major mental disorder; these can be personality disorders or clinical syndromes such as depression, schizophrenia, or social phobia.

The design of the federal grant funded program envisions ADRCs offering information and referral to elders, the targeted disability population, family members, caregivers, etc. In addition, if elders or adults with SPMI require long-term care services, then the access services provided by the ADRC will be available to them. These will include screening to determine programmatic eligibility for long-term care, Medicaid eligibility determination (if appropriate), choice counseling, etc.

<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>

DOEA ARC Development Team members continue to work closely with the DCF Mental Health Program Office staff at the state level and have participated in a teleconference with district supervisors to discuss the relationship between the ADRCs and DCF districts. DCF staff have clarified that the state currently has a fully developed mental health system including crisis response services; DCF would object to the ADRCs attempting to duplicate these services. Rather than replace or supplant the existing system, ADRCs will work with the mental health provider community to determine the best way to link the targeted disability population with crisis stabilization and short-term case management.

DCF's expectations are that ADRCs will serve as an additional resource point for individuals with SPMI and their families. The ADRC's existence and its linkage with mental health providers will enhance the existing infrastructure to better serve the needs of clients already in the mental health system. The ADRC I&R service is seen as having the potential to improve access to many community supports, unrelated to the mental health system, that might not otherwise be known to adults with SPMI and their families. The I&R system is also envisioned as a resource to mental health professionals needing guidance in navigating the complexity of the long-term care system.

DOEA has deliberately not established requirements for the ADRC interface with the local mental health community of service providers as this will vary from pilot site to pilot site. Through commitments being outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement, DOEA and the Department of Children and Families will provide technical assistance in the development of the local Memorandum of Understanding between the ADRC and the DCF district office to establish the organizational design at each pilot site for the relationship with the community mental health service system.

With the support of DCF and AHCA, the Department pledges its assistance to the ADRC pilot sites as transition plans are implemented. This is an opportunity to develop a single, coordinated system of information and access for all persons seeking long-term support. Designing the system in Florida to minimize confusion, enhance individual choice and support informed decision-making will present us with challenges we will face together.

SMT/sls

cc: ARC Implementation Team