



PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 50-13-1 et seq., the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to provide public notice of its intent to adopt, amend, or repeal certain rules other than interpretive rules or general statements of policy. Accordingly, the Department hereby provides notice of its intent to adopt its rules and regulations, specifically Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 111-8-2, Rules and Regulations for Adult Residential Mental Health Programs. These rules and regulations are required by O.C.G.A. § 37-3-200, et seq. The rules and regulations establish minimum standards for governing body and administration; licensure requirements and enforcement processes and penalties; admission, discharge, care, and services; building and functional design standards; staffing requirements; criminal background checks; medication administration, storage, and dispensing; food and nutrition standards; disaster preparedness planning; establishing a procedure for enforcement of client rights and grievances; recordkeeping maintenance requirements; procedures to protect confidentiality of clients seeking treatment; departmental inspections; invoking the powers of the disability services ombudsman over facilities; and providing for the department's discretionary waiver and variance authority. An exact copy of the revised rules and a synopsis of the revisions are attached to this public notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

An opportunity for public comment will be held on October 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. There will be no in-person attendance at the Department of Community Health. The Zoom meeting ID number is 811 3678 8283 and the event password is "542180". Follow these instructions to join the event:

1. Click the link or copy and paste the link text to a browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81136788283?pwd=gNmY7fGMGolahoIcNQ62NB0z1mfM0b.1>
2. Click "Join Now"

To join by telephone: One tap mobile
+16469313860,,81136788283#,,,,*542180# US

+13017158592,,81136788283#,,,,*542180# US (Washington DC)

Oral comments will be limited to ten (10) minutes per person. Individuals who are disabled and require assistance to participate during this meeting should contact the Office of General Counsel at (470) 259-0735 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.



Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes must do so on or before October 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Due to reduced physical staffing at the 2 M.L.K., Jr. Drive, SE location DCH encourages written public comments submitted in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(2) to be submitted via e-mail to the following e-mail address: **Public.Comment@dch.ga.gov**.

Written comments may be submitted via regular mail to the following address:

Attention: Alycia Allgood
Office of General Counsel
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 M.L.K., Jr. Drive, SE, 18th Floor, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to November 14, 2024. The Board will vote on the proposed changes on November 14, 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 10th DAY OF OCTOBER 2024

Russel Carlson, Commissioner