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 Fax #:
 (717) 783-2664

 E-mail:
 irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

 Website:
 www.irrc.state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101

To: Tawny K. Mummah Agency: Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Phone: 787-9354 Fax: 787-1788 Date: 9/3/14 Pages: 3

RE: Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Regulation #74-1 (IRRC #3049)

URGENT!

Section 5.1(j) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(j)) requires us to forward to you any documents we receive during the 48-hour blackout preceding our public meeting upon receipt. Please distribute this material to the appropriate regulatory staff as soon as possible.

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 Website:
 www.irrc.state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101

To: Honorable Patricia Vance, Chairman Agency: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Phone 787-8524 Fax: 772-0576 Date: September 3, 2014 # of Pages: 3

RE: Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Regulation #74-1 (IRRC #3049)

URGENT!

Section 5.1(j) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(j)) requires us to forward to you any documents we receive during the 48-hour blackout preceding our public meeting, upon receipt. <u>Please distribute this</u> <u>material to the appropriate regulatory staff as soon as possible.</u>

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 (717) 783-2664

 E-mail:
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 Website:
 www.irrc.state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 333 MARKET STREET, 14[™] FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Honorable Shirley Kitchen, Minority Chairman Agency: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Phone 787-6735 Fax: 772-0581 Date: September 3, 2014 # of Pages: 3

RE: Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Regulation #74-1 (IRRC #3049)

URGENT!

Section 5.1(j) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(j)) requires us to forward to you any documents we receive during the 48-hour blackout preceding our public meeting, upon receipt. <u>Please distribute this</u> material to the appropriate regulatory staff as soon as possible.

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 Fax #:
 (717) 783-2664

 E-mail:
 irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

 Website:
 www.irrc.state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101

To: Honorable Gene DiGirolamo, Chairman Agency: House Human Services Committee Phone 783-7319 Fax: 772-2414 Date: September 3, 2014 # of Pages: 3

RE: Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Regulation #74-1 (IRRC #3049)

URGENT!

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 Fax #:
 (717) 783-2664

 E-mail:
 irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

 Website:
 www.irrc.state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Honorable Angel Cruz, Minority Chairman Agency: House Human Services Committee Phone 787-1407 Fax: 780-4769 Date: September 3, 2014 # of Pages: 3

RE: Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Regulation #74-1 (IRRC #3049)

URGENT!

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EMBARGOED MATERIAL

September 3, 2014

VIA Electronic Mail

3049 Corinne R. Brandt **Regulatory Analyst** Independent Regulatory Review Commission 333 Market Street 14th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

2014 SEP μ P \sim SO

No. 3049, Regulation #74-1: Standards for Licensure of Re: **Freestanding Treatment Facilities**

Dear Ms. Brandt:

I write to you on behalf of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania (BCNEPA) concerning the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' (the Department's) recent proposal to amend the General Standards For Free-Standing Treatment Facilities.

By way of background, for over 75 years, BCNEPA has provided health insurance to the residents of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. We currently provide coverage for over 550,000 members and continually seek innovative approaches to reduce the cost of health care while improving health care quality and outcomes throughout our region.

We appreciate and applaud the Department's efforts to update and streamline its licensure and regulatory requirements. We support this endeavor in general and support the Department's proposed revisions to the General Standards For Free-Standing Treatment Facilities. Nevertheless, in its efforts to update and streamline its licensure and regulatory requirements, we respectfully request that the Department consider updating the disclosure requirements found in 4 PA Code Section 255.5. Although well intended, the aforementioned regulations have not been updated in over two decades. To that end, we believe these regulations have not kept pace with the many changes in health care reimbursement during this time. The confines of these regulations often present challenges to health insurers to ensure that consumers receive timely and effective addiction recovery services. Consequently, we believe updating the regulations in 4 PA Code Section 255.5 should be a priority of the Department in its efforts to update and streamline its licensure and regulatory requirements.



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Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed revisions to the General Standards For Free-Standing Treatment Facilities. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter or this matter in general, please feel free to contact me at the following address:

500 North Third Street Suite 6B Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717) 213-6914 Norris.Benns@bcnepa.com

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/les 4.

Norris E. Benns, Jr., Esq. Director, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Fiona E. Wilmarth Ronald G. Young