

MEMORANDUM

To: DS Directors

From: Camille George, Director, Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD)

Date: April 30, 2015

Re: Revised version of the Protocols for Evaluating Less Restrictive Placements and Supports for People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities Who Pose a Risk to Public Safety.

The Division's continued goal is to partner with and support the Designated and Specialized Services Agencies in assuring the creation and use of the best support plans possible for individuals with developmental disabilities who are supported for a public safety concern. We know that you continue to share our concern about resources and supports available to the population of people who pose a risk to public safety and need supports. Since 2012, Service Providers and the Division have increased their focus on current system practices and worked together in conducting the activities in the DDSD Protocols for Evaluating Less Restrictive Placements and Supports for People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities Who Pose a Risk to Public Safety. We believe that these activities benefit and will continue to benefit the support provision for individuals who demonstrate risks to the safety of the public.

The revisions in this updated policy and practice are only minor administrative changes or descriptions.

- 1) In activity 1: It was required to add that currently supported individuals, who may not need increased funding for their supports, but who are placed onto Act 248 civil commitment, will need to have a Public Safety Risk Assessment (PSRA) completed.
- 2) In activity 2: The need for an agency draft review of the public safety risk assessment, before it can be completed, was described due to the need for ethical standards of evaluation and assessment.
- 3) In activity 9: The current Division resources have not allowed for the opportunity for quality reviewers to conduct specific PS Protocol compliance reviews as described. When the Division develops sufficient quality review resources this activity might be re-established in the Protocols, but for this current version it is removed.

We welcome additional ideas regarding how we can assure cost-effective services that address an individual's needs in the least restrictive manner while reducing his/her risk to the safety of the public.