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December 9, 2011

PWE 084-02

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators, Community Residential Care Facilities

FROM: Gwendolyn C. Thompson, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Provider-Wide Exception – Door Closures

Section 2705.J of Regulation 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities, requires that "All resident room doors shall be solid-core; facilities licensed for six beds or more shall have 20-minute doors with closures."

In consideration of the Department's commitment to establishing standards that do not compromise the health, safety, and well-being of residents of community residential care facilities, it has been determined that all community residential care facilities (CRCFs) will be required to meet the standard outlined in the licensing standards, *i.e.*, R.61-84, Section 2205.J that requires 20-minute doors with closures for facilities of six beds or more, **as an alternative**:

> For CRCFs that are built to I-2 standards, as defined by the International Building Code (IBC) 2006, door closures will not be required to be installed provided the following conditions are met:
>
> 1. The facility must request, and receive, confirmation from the Division of Health Facilities Construction that the facility is constructed to I-2 standards. The facility must maintain the response letter and the construction documents in the facility for review by inspectors.
>
> 2. The entire facility must be constructed to I-2 standards. If any portion of the facility is constructed to a standard that does not provide at least the same level of protection, the facility is not eligible for this exception.
>
> 3. The facility must maintain a staff to resident ratio of 1 staff member for each 22 residents, or fraction thereof, during non-peak hours.
>
> This exception is not granted to applicable facilities automatically by receipt of this message. Each facility that desires to be considered under this Provider-Wide Exception must have declared its intent by documentation of compliance with condition 1 above.

This exception applies to any community residential care facility licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please call Daniel Skinner at (803) 545-4215, for construction issues, or Harriet Hairston at (803) 545-0170 for licensing issues.

GCT/ejc

cc: Pamela M. Dukes, DHEC
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