

CHAPTER 245B

SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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245B.001 MS 2006 [Renumbered 15.001]

245B.01 RULE CONSOLIDATION.

This chapter establishes new methods to ensure the quality of services to persons with developmental disabilities, and streamlines and simplifies regulation of services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities. Sections 245B.02 to 245B.07 establish new standards that eliminate duplication and overlap of regulatory requirements by consolidating and replacing rule parts from four program rules. Section 245B.08 authorizes the commissioner of human services to develop and use new regulatory strategies to maintain compliance with the streamlined requirements.

History: 1997 c 248 s 35; 2005 c 56 s 1

245B.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The terms used in this chapter have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Applicant.** "Applicant" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. **Case manager.** "Case manager" means the individual designated by the county board under rules of the commissioner to provide case management services as delineated in section 256B.092 or successor provisions.

Subd. 4. **Consumer.** "Consumer" means a person who has been determined eligible to receive and is receiving services or support for persons with developmental disabilities.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Human Services or the commissioner's designated representative.

Subd. 6. **Day training and habilitation services; developmental disabilities.** "Day training and habilitation services for adults with developmental disabilities" has the meaning given in sections 252.40 to 252.46.

Subd. 7. **Department.** "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

Subd. 8. **Direct service.** "Direct service" means, for a consumer receiving residential-based services, day training and habilitation services, or respite care services, one or more of the following: supervision, assistance, or training.

Subd. 8a. **Emergency.** "Emergency" means any fires, severe weather, natural disasters, power failures, or any event that affects the ordinary daily operation of the program, including, but not limited to, events that threaten the immediate health and safety of a person receiving services and that require calling 911, emergency evacuation, moving to an emergency shelter, or temporary closure or relocation of the program to another facility or service site.

Subd. 9. **Health services.** "Health services" means any service or treatment consistent with the health needs of the consumer, such as medication administration and monitoring, medical, dental, nutritional, health monitoring, wellness education, and exercise.

Subd. 10. **Incident.** "Incident" means an occurrence that affects the ordinary provision of services to a person and includes any of the following:

- (1) serious injury as determined by section 245.91, subdivision 6;
- (2) a consumer's death;
- (3) any medical emergency, unexpected serious illness, or significant unexpected changes in an illness or medical condition, or the mental health status of a person that requires calling 911 or a mental health mobile crisis intervention team, physician treatment, or hospitalization;
- (4) a consumer's unauthorized or unexplained absence;
- (5) physical aggression by a consumer against another consumer that causes physical pain, injury, or persistent emotional distress, including, but not limited to, hitting, slapping, kicking, scratching, pinching, biting, pushing, and spitting;
- (6) any sexual activity between consumers involving force or coercion as defined under section 609.341, subdivisions 3 and 14; or
- (7) a report of child or vulnerable adult maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557.

Subd. 11. **Individual service plan.** "Individual service plan" has the meaning given in section 256B.092 or successor provisions.

Subd. 12. **Individual who is related.** "Individual who is related" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 13.

Subd. 12a. **Interdisciplinary team.** "Interdisciplinary team" means a team composed of the case manager, the person, the person's legal representative and advocate, if any, and representatives of providers of the service areas relevant to the needs of the person as described in the individual service plan.

Subd. 13. **Intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities.** "Intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities" or "ICF/MR" means a residential program licensed to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities under section 252.28 and chapter 245A and a physical facility licensed as a supervised living facility under chapter 144, which together are certified by the Department of Health as an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities.

Subd. 14. **Least restrictive environment.** "Least restrictive environment" means an environment where services:

- (1) are delivered with minimum limitation, intrusion, disruption, or departure from typical patterns of living available to persons without disabilities;
- (2) do not subject the consumer or others to unnecessary risks to health or safety; and
- (3) maximize the consumer's level of independence, productivity, and inclusion in the community.

Subd. 15. **Legal representative.** "Legal representative" means the parent or parents of a consumer who is under 18 years of age or a guardian, conservator, or guardian ad litem authorized by the court, or other legally authorized representative to make decisions about services for a consumer.

Subd. 16. **License.** "License" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 8.

Subd. 17. **License holder.** "License holder" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 9.

Subd. 18. **Person with developmental disability.** "Person with developmental disability" means a person who has been diagnosed under section 256B.092 as having substantial limitations in present functioning, manifested as significantly subaverage intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with demonstrated deficits in adaptive behavior, and who manifests these conditions before the person's 22nd birthday. A person with a related condition means a person who meets the diagnostic definition under section 252.27, subdivision 1a.

Subd. 19. **Psychotropic medication use checklist.** "Psychotropic medication use checklist" means the psychotropic medication monitoring checklist and manual used to govern the administration of psychotropic medications. The commissioner may revise or update the psychotropic medication use checklist to comply with legal requirements or to meet professional standards or guidelines in the area of developmental disabilities. For purposes of this chapter, psychotropic medication means any medication prescribed to treat mental illness and associated behaviors or to control or alter behavior. The major classes of psychotropic medication are antipsychotic (neuroleptic), antidepressant, antianxiety, antimania, stimulant, and sedative or hypnotic. Other miscellaneous medications are considered to be a psychotropic medication when they are specifically prescribed to treat a mental illness or to control or alter behavior.

Subd. 20. **Residential-based habilitation.** "Residential-based habilitation" means care, supervision, and training provided primarily in the consumer's own home or place of residence but also including community-integrated activities following the individual service plan. Residential habilitation services are provided in coordination with the provision of day training and habilitation services for those persons receiving day training and habilitation services under sections 252.40 to 252.46.

Subd. 21. **Respite care.** "Respite care" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 15.

Subd. 22. **Service.** "Service" means care, supervision, activities, or training designed to achieve the outcomes assigned to the license holder.

Subd. 23. **Semi-independent living services or SILS** "Semi-independent living services" or "SILS" has the meaning given in section 252.275.

Subd. 23a. **Supported employment.** "Supported employment" services include individualized counseling, individualized job development and placement that produce an appropriate job match for the individual and the employer, on-the-job training in work and related work skills required for job performance, ongoing supervision and monitoring of the person's performance, long-term support services to assure job retention, training in related skills essential to obtaining and retaining employment such as the effective use of community resources, use of break and lunch areas, transportation and mobility training, and transportation between the individual's place of residence and the work place when other forms of transportation are unavailable or inaccessible.

Subd. 24. **Volunteer.** "Volunteer" means an individual who, under the direction of the license holder, provides direct services without pay to consumers served by the license holder.

History: 1997 c 248 s 36; 2001 c 203 s 1; 2002 c 289 s 1; 2004 c 288 art 1 s 32; 2005 c 56 s 1; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 1 s 23; 2012 c 216 art 18 s 6,7

245B.03 APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT.

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The standards in this chapter govern services to persons with developmental disabilities receiving services from license holders providing residential-based habilitation; day training and habilitation services for adults; supported employment; semi-independent living services; residential programs that serve more than four consumers, including intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities; and respite care provided outside the consumer's home for more than four consumers at the same time at a single site.

Subd. 2. **Relationship to other standards governing services at ICF's/MR.** (a) ICF's/MR are exempt from:

- (1) section 245B.04;
- (2) section 245B.06, subdivisions 4 and 6; and
- (3) section 245B.07, subdivisions 4, paragraphs (b) and (c); 7; and 8, paragraph (a), clause (4), and paragraph (b).

(b) License holders also licensed under chapter 144 as a supervised living facility are exempt from section 245B.04.

(c) Residential service sites controlled by license holders licensed under this chapter for home and community-based waived services for four or fewer adults are exempt from compliance with Minnesota Rules, parts 9543.0040, subpart 2, item C; 9555.5505; 9555.5515, items B and G; 9555.5605; 9555.5705; 9555.6125, subparts 3, item C, subitem (2), and 4 to 6; 9555.6185; 9555.6225, subpart 8; 9555.6245; 9555.6255; and 9555.6265; and as provided under section 245B.06, subdivision 2, the license holder is exempt from the program abuse prevention plans and individual abuse prevention plans otherwise required under sections 245A.65, subdivision 2, and 626.557, subdivision 14. The commissioner may approve alternative methods of providing overnight supervision using the process and criteria for granting a variance in section 245A.04, subdivision 9. This chapter does not apply to foster care homes that do not provide residential habilitation services funded under the home and community-based waiver programs defined in section 256B.092.

(d) Residential service sites controlled by license holders licensed under this chapter for home and community-based waived services for four or fewer children are exempt from compliance with Minnesota Rules, parts 2960.3060, subpart 3, items B and C; 2960.3070; 2960.3100, subpart 1, items C, F, and I; and 2960.3210.

(e) The commissioner may exempt license holders from applicable standards of this chapter when the license holder meets the standards under section 245A.09, subdivision 7. License holders that are accredited by an independent accreditation body shall continue to be licensed under this chapter.

(f) License holders governed by sections 245B.02 to 245B.07 must also meet the licensure requirements in chapter 245A.

(g) Nothing in this chapter prohibits license holders from concurrently serving consumers with and without developmental disabilities provided this chapter's standards are met as well as other relevant standards.

(h) The documentation that sections 245B.02 to 245B.07 require of the license holder meets the individual program plan required in section 256B.092 or successor provisions.

Subd. 3. **Continuity of care.** (a) When a consumer changes service to the same type of service provided under a different license held by the same license holder and the policies and procedures under section 245B.07, subdivision 8, are substantially similar, the license holder is exempt from the requirements in sections 245B.06, subdivisions 2, paragraphs (e) and (f), and 4; and 245B.07, subdivision 9, clause (2).

(b) When a direct service staff person begins providing direct service under one or more licenses other than the license for which the staff person initially received the staff orientation requirements under section 245B.07, subdivision 5, the license holder is exempt from all staff orientation requirements under section 245B.07, subdivision 5, except that:

(1) if the service provision location changes, the staff person must receive orientation regarding any policies or procedures under section 245B.07, subdivision 8, that are specific to the service provision location; and

(2) if the staff person provides direct service to one or more consumers for whom the staff person has not previously provided direct service, the staff person must review each consumer's: (i) service plans and risk management plan in accordance with section 245B.07, subdivision 5, paragraph (b), clause (1); and (ii) medication administration in accordance with section 245B.07, subdivision 5, paragraph (b), clause (6).

History: 1997 c 248 s 37; 2001 c 203 s 2; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 6 s 13,14; 2004 c 288 art 1 s 33; 2005 c 56 s 1

245B.031 ACCREDITATION, ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION, AND DEEMED COMPLIANCE.

Subdivision 1. **Day training and habilitation or supported employment services programs; alternative inspection status.** (a) A license holder providing day training and habilitation services or supported employment services according to this chapter, with a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities, that has had at least one on-site inspection by the commissioner following issuance of the initial license, may request alternative inspection status under this section.

(b) The request for alternative inspection status must be made in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, and must include:

(1) a copy of the license holder's application to the Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities for accreditation;

(2) the most recent Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities accreditation survey report; and

(3) the most recent letter confirming the three-year accreditation and approval of the license holder's quality improvement plan.

Based on the request and the accompanying materials, the commissioner may approve alternative inspection status.

(c) Following approval of alternative inspection status, the commissioner may terminate the alternative inspection status or deny a subsequent alternative inspection status if the commissioner determines that any of the following conditions have occurred after approval of the alternative inspection process:

(1) the license holder has not maintained full three-year accreditation;

(2) the commissioner has substantiated maltreatment for which the license holder or facility is determined to be responsible during the three-year accreditation period; and

(3) during the three-year accreditation period, the license holder has been issued an order for conditional license, a fine, suspension, or license revocation that has not been reversed upon appeal.

(d) The commissioner's decision that the conditions for approval for the alternative licensing inspection status have not been met is final and not subject to appeal under the provisions of chapter 14.

Subd. 2. Programs with three-year accreditation, exempt from certain statutes. (a) A license holder approved for alternative inspection status under this section is exempt from the requirements under:

- (1) section 245B.04;
- (2) section 245B.05, subdivisions 5 and 6;
- (3) section 245B.06, subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6; and
- (4) section 245B.07, subdivisions 1, 4, and 6.

(b) Upon receipt of a complaint regarding a requirement under paragraph (a), the commissioner shall refer the complaint to the Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities for possible follow-up.

Subd. 3. Programs with three-year accreditation, deemed to be in compliance with nonexempt licensing requirements. (a) License holders approved for alternative inspection status under this section are required to maintain compliance with all licensing standards from which they are not exempt under subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

(b) License holders approved for alternative inspection status under this section shall be deemed to be in compliance with all nonexempt statutes, and the commissioner shall not perform routine licensing inspections.

(c) Upon receipt of a complaint regarding the services of a license holder approved for alternative inspection under this section that is not related to a licensing requirement from which the license holder is exempt under subdivision 2, the commissioner shall investigate the complaint and may take any action as provided under section 245A.06 or 245A.07.

Subd. 4. Investigations of alleged maltreatment of minors or vulnerable adults. Nothing in this section changes the commissioner's responsibilities to investigate alleged or suspected maltreatment of a minor under section 626.556 or vulnerable adult under section 626.557.

Subd. 5. Request to Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities to expand accreditation survey. The commissioner shall submit a request to the Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities to routinely inspect for compliance with standards that are similar to the following nonexempt licensing requirements:

- (1) section 245A.65;
- (2) section 245A.66;
- (3) section 245B.05, subdivisions 1, 2, and 7;
- (4) section 245B.055;
- (5) section 245B.06, subdivisions 2, 7, 9, and 10;
- (6) section 245B.07, subdivisions 2, 5, and 8, paragraph (a), clause (7);
- (7) section 245C.04, subdivision 1, paragraph (f);

- (8) section 245C.07;
- (9) section 245C.13, subdivision 2;
- (10) section 245C.20; and
- (11) Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.2700 to 9525.2810.

History: 2009 c 142 art 2 s 22; 2009 c 174 art 2 s 8; 2011 c 76 art 1 s 36

245B.04 CONSUMER RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **License holder's responsibility for consumers' rights.** The license holder must:

(1) provide the consumer or the consumer's legal representative a copy of the consumer's rights on the day that services are initiated and an explanation of the rights in subdivisions 2 and 3 within five working days of service initiation and annually thereafter. Reasonable accommodations shall be made by the license holder to provide this information in other formats as needed to facilitate understanding of the rights by the consumer and the consumer's legal representative, if any;

(2) document the consumer's or the consumer's legal representative's receipt of a copy of the rights and an explanation of the rights; and

(3) ensure the exercise and protection of the consumer's rights in the services provided by the license holder and authorized in the individual service plan.

Subd. 2. **Service-related rights.** A consumer's service-related rights include the right to:

(1) refuse or terminate services and be informed of the consequences of refusing or terminating services;

(2) know, in advance, limits to the services available from the license holder;

(3) know conditions and terms governing the provision of services, including the license holder's policies and procedures related to initiation and termination;

(4) know what the charges are for services, regardless of who will be paying for the services, and be notified upon request of changes in those charges;

(5) know, in advance, whether services are covered by insurance, government funding, or other sources, and be told of any charges the consumer or other private party may have to pay; and

(6) receive licensed services from individuals who are competent and trained, who have professional certification or licensure, as required, and who meet additional qualifications identified in the individual service plan.

Subd. 3. **Protection-related rights.** (a) The consumer's protection-related rights include the right to:

(1) have personal, financial, services, and medical information kept private, and be advised of the license holder's policies and procedures regarding disclosure of such information;

(2) access records and recorded information about the person in accordance with applicable state and federal law, regulation, or rule;

(3) be free from maltreatment;

(4) be treated with courtesy and respect for the consumer's individuality, mode of communication, and culture, and receive respectful treatment of the consumer's property;

- (5) reasonable observance of cultural and ethnic practice and religion;
 - (6) be free from bias and harassment regarding race, gender, age, disability, spirituality, and sexual orientation;
 - (7) be informed of and use the license holder's grievance policy and procedures, including knowing how to contact persons responsible for addressing problems and to appeal under section 256.045;
 - (8) know the name, telephone number, and the Web site, e-mail, and street addresses of protection and advocacy services, including the appropriate state-appointed ombudsman, and a brief description of how to file a complaint with these offices;
 - (9) voice grievances, know the contact persons responsible for addressing problems and how to contact those persons;
 - (10) any procedures for grievance or complaint resolution and the right to appeal under section 256.045;
 - (11) know the name and address of the state, county, or advocacy agency to contact for additional information or assistance;
 - (12) assert these rights personally, or have them asserted by the consumer's family or legal representative, without retaliation;
 - (13) give or withhold written informed consent to participate in any research or experimental treatment;
 - (14) have daily, private access to and use of a non-coin-operated telephone for local calls and long-distance calls made collect or paid for by the resident;
 - (15) receive and send, without interference, uncensored, unopened mail or electronic correspondence or communication;
 - (16) marital privacy for visits with the consumer's spouse and, if both are residents of the site, the right to share a bedroom and bed;
 - (17) associate with other persons of the consumer's choice;
 - (18) personal privacy; and
 - (19) engage in chosen activities.
- (b) Restriction of a person's rights under paragraph (a), clauses (13) to (15), or this paragraph is allowed only if determined necessary to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the person. Any restriction of these rights must be documented in the service plan for the person and must include the following information:
- (1) the justification for the restriction based on an assessment of the person's vulnerability related to exercising the right without restriction;
 - (2) the objective measures set as conditions for ending the restriction;
 - (3) a schedule for reviewing the need for the restriction based on the conditions for ending the restriction to occur, at a minimum, every three months for persons who do not have a legal representative and annually for persons who do have a legal representative from the date of initial approval; and
 - (4) signed and dated approval for the restriction from the person, or the person's legal representative, if any. A restriction may be implemented only when the required approval has

been obtained. Approval may be withdrawn at any time. If approval is withdrawn, the right must be immediately and fully restored.

History: 1997 c 248 s 38; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 6 s 15; 2012 c 216 art 18 s 8-10

245B.05 CONSUMER PROTECTION STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Environment.** The license holder must:

(1) ensure that services are provided in a safe and hazard-free environment when the license holder is the owner, lessor, or tenant of the service site. All other license holders shall inform the consumer or the consumer's legal representative and case manager about any environmental safety concerns in writing;

(2) ensure that doors are locked or toxic substances or dangerous items normally accessible to persons served by the program are stored in locked cabinets, drawers, or containers only to protect the safety of consumers and not as a substitute for staff supervision or interactions with consumers. If doors are locked or toxic substances or dangerous items normally accessible to persons served by the program are stored in locked cabinets, drawers, or containers, the license holder must justify and document how this determination was made in consultation with the person or the person's legal representative and how access will otherwise be provided to the person and all other affected persons receiving services;

(3) follow procedures that minimize the consumer's health risk from communicable diseases; and

(4) maintain equipment, vehicles, supplies, and materials owned or leased by the license holder in good condition.

Subd. 2. **Licensed capacity for facility-based day training and habilitation services.**

The licensed capacity of each day training and habilitation service site must be determined by the amount of primary space available, the scheduling of activities at other service sites, and the space requirements of consumers receiving services at the site. Primary space does not include hallways, stairways, closets, utility areas, bathrooms, kitchens, and floor areas beneath stationary equipment. A facility-based day training and habilitation site must have a minimum of 40 square feet of primary space available for each consumer who is present at the site at any one time. Licensed capacity under this subdivision does not apply to: (1) consumers receiving community-based day training and habilitation services; and (2) the temporary use of a facility-based training and habilitation service site for the limited purpose of providing transportation to consumers receiving community-based day training and habilitation services from the license holder. The license holder must comply at all times with all applicable fire and safety codes under section 245A.04, subdivision 2a, and adequate supervision requirements under section 245B.055 for all persons receiving day training and habilitation services.

Subd. 3. **Residential service sites for more than four consumers; four-bed ICF's/MR.**

Residential service sites licensed to serve more than four consumers and four-bed ICF's/MR must meet the fire protection provisions of either the Residential Board and Care Occupancies Chapter or the Health Care Occupancies Chapter of the Life Safety Code (LSC), National Fire Protection Association, 1985 edition, or its successors. Sites meeting the definition of a residential board and care occupancy for 16 or less beds must have the emergency evacuation capability of residents evaluated in accordance with Appendix F of the LSC or its successors, except for those sites that meet the LSC Health Care Occupancies Chapter or its successors.

Subd. 4. MS 2010 [Renumbered 245A.04, subd 2a]

Subd. 5. **Consumer health.** The license holder is responsible for meeting the health service needs assigned to the license holder in the individual service plan and for bringing health needs as discovered by the license holder promptly to the attention of the consumer, the consumer's legal representative, and the case manager. The license holder is required to maintain documentation on how the consumer's health needs will be met, including a description of procedures the license holder will follow for the consumer regarding medication monitoring and administration and seizure monitoring, if needed. The medication administration procedures are those procedures necessary to implement medication and treatment orders issued by appropriately licensed professionals, and must be established in consultation with a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or medical doctor.

Subd. 6. **First aid.** When the license holder is providing direct service and supervision to a consumer who requires a 24-hour plan of care and receives services at a site licensed under this chapter, the license holder must have available a staff person trained in first aid, and, if needed under section 245B.07, subdivision 6, paragraph (d), cardiopulmonary resuscitation from a qualified source, as determined by the commissioner.

Subd. 7. **Reporting incidents.** (a) The license holder must maintain information about and report incidents under section 245B.02, subdivision 10, clauses (1) to (7), to the consumer's legal representative, other licensed caregiver, if any, and case manager within 24 hours of the occurrence, or within 24 hours of receipt of the information unless the incident has been reported by another license holder. An incident under section 245B.02, subdivision 10, clause (8), must be reported as required under paragraph (c) unless the incident has been reported by another license holder.

(b) When the incident involves more than one consumer, the license holder must not disclose personally identifiable information about any other consumer when making the report to each consumer's legal representative, other licensed caregiver, if any, and case manager unless the license holder has the consent of a consumer or a consumer's legal representative.

(c) Within 24 hours of reporting maltreatment as required under section 626.556 or 626.557, the license holder must inform the consumer's legal representative and case manager of the report unless there is reason to believe that the legal representative or case manager is involved in the suspected maltreatment. The information the license holder must disclose is the nature of the activity or occurrence reported, the agency that receives the report, and the telephone number of the Department of Human Services Licensing Division.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e), death or serious injury of the consumer must also be reported to the Department of Human Services Licensing Division and the ombudsman, as required under sections 245.91 and 245.94, subdivision 2a.

(e) When a death or serious injury occurs in a facility certified as an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities, the death or serious injury must be reported to the Department of Health, Office of Health Facility Complaints, and the ombudsman, as required under sections 245.91 and 245.94, subdivision 2a.

History: 1997 c 248 s 39; 1999 c 245 art 4 s 11; 2002 c 289 s 2; 2004 c 288 art 1 s 34; 2010 c 329 art 1 s 13; 2012 c 216 art 16 s 27; art 18 s 11

245B.055 STAFFING FOR DAY TRAINING AND HABILITATION SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** This section applies only to license holders that provide day training and habilitation services.

Subd. 2. **Factors.** (a) The number of direct service staff members that a license holder must have on duty at a given time to meet the minimum staffing requirements established in this section varies according to:

- (1) the number of persons who are enrolled and receiving direct services at that given time;
- (2) the staff ratio requirement established under subdivision 3 for each of the persons who is present; and
- (3) whether the conditions described in subdivision 8 exist and warrant additional staffing beyond the number determined to be needed under subdivision 7.

(b) The commissioner shall consider the factors in paragraph (a) in determining a license holder's compliance with the staffing requirements and shall further consider whether the staff ratio requirement established under subdivision 3 for each person receiving services accurately reflects the person's need for staff time.

Subd. 3. **Staff ratio requirement for each person receiving services.** The case manager, in consultation with the interdisciplinary team shall determine at least once each year which of the ratios in subdivisions 4, 5, and 6 is appropriate for each person receiving services on the basis of the characteristics described in subdivisions 4, 5, and 6. The ratio assigned each person and the documentation of how the ratio was arrived at must be kept in each person's individual service plan. Documentation must include an assessment of the person with respect to the characteristics in subdivisions 4, 5, and 6 recorded on a standard assessment form required by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Person requiring staff ratio of one to four.** A person who has one or more of the following characteristics must be assigned a staff ratio requirement of one to four:

- (1) on a daily basis the person requires total care and monitoring or constant hand-over-hand physical guidance to successfully complete at least three of the following activities: toileting, communicating basic needs, eating, or ambulating; or
- (2) the person assaults others, is self-injurious, or manifests severe dysfunctional behaviors at a documented level of frequency, intensity, or duration requiring frequent daily ongoing intervention and monitoring as established in an approved behavior management program.

Subd. 5. **Person requiring staff ratio of one to eight.** A person who has all of the following characteristics must be assigned a staff ratio requirement of one to eight:

- (1) the person does not meet the requirements in subdivision 4; and
- (2) on a daily basis the person requires verbal prompts or spot checks and minimal or no physical assistance to successfully complete at least three of the following activities: toileting, communicating basic needs, eating, or ambulating.

Subd. 6. **Person requiring staff ratio of one to six.** A person who does not have any of the characteristics described in subdivision 4 or 5 must be assigned a staff ratio requirement of one to six.

Subd. 7. **Determining number of direct service staff required.** The minimum number of direct service staff members required at any one time to meet the combined staff ratio requirements of the persons present at that time can be determined by following the steps in clauses (1) through (4):

- (1) assign each person in attendance the three-digit decimal below that corresponds to the staff ratio requirement assigned to that person. A staff ratio requirement of one to four equals

0.250. A staff ratio requirement of one to eight equals 0.125. A staff ratio requirement of one to six equals 0.166. A staff ratio requirement of one to ten equals 0.100;

(2) add all of the three-digit decimals (one three-digit decimal for every person in attendance) assigned in clause (1);

(3) when the sum in clause (2) falls between two whole numbers, round off the sum to the larger of the two whole numbers; and

(4) the larger of the two whole numbers in clause (3) equals the number of direct service staff members needed to meet the staff ratio requirements of the persons in attendance.

Subd. 8. **Conditions requiring additional direct service staff.** The license holder shall increase the number of direct service staff members present at any one time beyond the number arrived at in subdivision 4 if necessary when any one or combination of the following circumstances can be documented by the commissioner as existing:

(1) the health and safety needs of the persons receiving services cannot be met by the number of staff members available under the staffing pattern in effect even though the number has been accurately calculated under subdivision 7; or

(2) the behavior of a person presents an immediate danger and the person is not eligible for a special needs rate exception under Minnesota Rules, parts 9510.1020 to 9510.1140.

Subd. 9. **Supervision requirements.** At no time shall one direct service staff member be assigned responsibility for supervision and training of more than ten persons receiving supervision and training, except as otherwise stated in each person's risk management plan.

History: 2004 c 288 art 1 s 35; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 1 s 24

245B.06 SERVICE STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Outcome-based services.** (a) The license holder must provide outcome-based services in response to the consumer's identified needs as specified in the individual service plan.

(b) Services must be based on the needs and preferences of the consumer and the consumer's personal goals and be consistent with the principles of least restrictive environment, self-determination, and consistent with:

(1) the recognition of each consumer's history, dignity, and cultural background;

(2) the affirmation and protection of each consumer's civil and legal rights;

(3) the provision of services and supports for each consumer which:

(i) promote community inclusion and self-sufficiency;

(ii) provide services in the least restrictive environment;

(iii) promote social relationships, natural supports, and participation in community life;

(iv) allow for a balance between safety and opportunities; and

(v) provide opportunities for the development and exercise of age-appropriate skills, decision making and choice, personal advocacy, and communication; and

(4) the provision of services and supports for families which address the needs of the consumer in the context of the family and support family self-sufficiency.

(c) The license holder must make available to the consumer opportunities to participate in the community, functional skill development, reduced dependency on care providers, and

opportunities for development of decision-making skills. "Outcome" means the behavior, action, or status attained by the consumer that can be observed, measured, and can be determined reliable and valid. Outcomes are the equivalent of the long-range goals and short-term goals referenced in section 256B.092, and any rules promulgated under that section.

Subd. 2. **Risk management plan.** (a) The license holder must develop, document in writing, and implement a risk management plan that meets the requirements of this subdivision. License holders licensed under this chapter are exempt from sections 245A.65, subdivision 2, and 626.557, subdivision 14, if the requirements of this subdivision are met.

(b) The risk management plan must identify areas in which the consumer is vulnerable, based on an assessment, at a minimum, of the following areas:

(1) an adult consumer's susceptibility to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 2, and financial exploitation as defined in section 626.5572, subdivision 9; a minor consumer's susceptibility to sexual and physical abuse as defined in section 626.556, subdivision 2; and a consumer's susceptibility to self-abuse, regardless of age;

(2) the consumer's health needs, considering the consumer's physical disabilities; allergies; sensory impairments; seizures; diet; need for medications; and ability to obtain medical treatment;

(3) the consumer's safety needs, considering the consumer's ability to take reasonable safety precautions; community survival skills; water survival skills; ability to seek assistance or provide medical care; and access to toxic substances or dangerous items;

(4) environmental issues, considering the program's location in a particular neighborhood or community; the type of grounds and terrain surrounding the building; and the consumer's ability to respond to weather-related conditions, open locked doors, and remain alone in any environment; and

(5) the consumer's behavior, including behaviors that may increase the likelihood of physical aggression between consumers or sexual activity between consumers involving force or coercion, as defined under section 245B.02, subdivision 10, clauses (6) and (7).

(c) When assessing a consumer's vulnerability, the license holder must consider only the consumer's skills and abilities, independent of staffing patterns, supervision plans, the environment, or other situational elements.

(d) License holders jointly providing services to a consumer shall coordinate and use the resulting assessment of risk areas for the development of each license holder's risk management or the shared risk management plan. The license holder's plan must include the specific actions a staff person will take to protect the consumer and minimize risks for the identified vulnerability areas. The specific actions must include the proactive measures being taken, training being provided, or a detailed description of actions a staff person will take when intervention is needed.

(e) Prior to or upon initiating services, a license holder must develop an initial risk management plan that is, at a minimum, verbally approved by the consumer or consumer's legal representative and case manager. The license holder must document the date the license holder receives the consumer's or consumer's legal representative's and case manager's verbal approval of the initial plan.

(f) As part of the meeting held within 45 days of initiating service, as required under section 245B.06, subdivision 4, the license holder must review the initial risk management plan for accuracy and revise the plan if necessary. The license holder must give the consumer or consumer's legal representative and case manager an opportunity to participate in this plan review.

If the license holder revises the plan, or if the consumer or consumer's legal representative and case manager have not previously signed and dated the plan, the license holder must obtain dated signatures to document the plan's approval.

(g) After plan approval, the license holder must review the plan at least annually and update the plan based on the individual consumer's needs and changes to the environment. The license holder must give the consumer or consumer's legal representative and case manager an opportunity to participate in the ongoing plan development. The license holder shall obtain dated signatures from the consumer or consumer's legal representative and case manager to document completion of the annual review and approval of plan changes.

Subd. 3. **Assessments.** (a) The license holder shall assess and reassess the consumer within stated time lines and assessment areas specified in the individual service plan or as requested in writing by the case manager.

(b) For each area of assessment requested, the license holder must provide a written summary, analysis, and recommendations for use in the development of the individual service plan.

(c) All assessments must include information about the consumer that is descriptive of:

(1) the consumer's strengths and functional skills; and

(2) the level of support and supervision the consumer needs to achieve the outcomes in subdivision 1.

Subd. 4. **Supports and methods.** The license holder, in coordination with other service providers, shall meet with the consumer, the consumer's legal representative, case manager, and other members of the interdisciplinary team within 45 days of service initiation. Within ten working days after the meeting, the license holder shall develop and document in writing:

(1) the methods that will be used to support the individual or accomplish the outcomes in subdivision 1, including information about physical and social environments, the equipment and materials required, and techniques that are consistent with the consumer's communication mode and learning style specified as the license holder's responsibility in the individual service plan;

(2) the projected starting date for service supports and the criteria for identifying when the desired outcome has been achieved and when the service supports need to be reviewed; and

(3) the names of the staff, staff position, or contractors responsible for implementing each outcome.

Subd. 5. **Progress reviews.** The license holder must participate in progress review meetings following stated time lines established in the consumer's individual service plan or as requested in writing by the consumer, the consumer's legal representative, or the case manager, at a minimum of once a year. The license holder must summarize the progress toward achieving the desired outcomes and make recommendations in a written report sent to the consumer or the consumer's legal representative and case manager prior to the review meeting.

Subd. 6. **Reports.** The license holder shall provide written reports regarding the consumer's status as requested by the consumer, or the consumer's legal representative and case manager.

Subd. 7. **Staffing requirements.** The license holder must provide supervision to ensure the health, safety, and protection of rights of each consumer and to be able to implement each consumer's individual service plan. Day training and habilitation programs must meet the

minimum staffing requirements as specified in sections 252.40 to 252.46 and rules promulgated under those sections.

Subd. 8. **Leaving the residence.** Each consumer requiring a 24-hour plan of care shall receive services during the day outside the residence unless otherwise specified in the individual's service plan. License holders, providing services to consumers living in a licensed site, shall ensure that they are prepared to care for consumers whenever they are at the residence during the day because of illness, work schedules, or other reasons.

Subd. 9. **Day training and habilitation service days.** Day training and habilitation services must meet a minimum of 195 available service days.

Subd. 10. **Prohibition.** Psychotropic medication and the use of aversive and deprivation procedures, as referenced in section 245.825 and rules promulgated under that section, cannot be used as a substitute for adequate staffing, as punishment, or for staff convenience.

History: 1997 c 248 s 40; 1998 c 407 art 6 s 6; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 3 s 2; art 6 s 16,17

245B.07 MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Consumer data file.** The license holder must maintain the following information for each consumer:

(1) identifying information that includes date of birth, medications, legal representative, history, medical, and other individual-specific information, and names and telephone numbers of contacts;

(2) consumer health information, including individual medication administration and monitoring information;

(3) the consumer's individual service plan. When a consumer's case manager does not provide a current individual service plan, the license holder shall make a written request to the case manager to provide a copy of the individual service plan and inform the consumer or the consumer's legal representative of the right to an individual service plan and the right to appeal under section 256.045. In the event the case manager fails to provide an individual service plan after a written request from the license holder, the license holder shall not be sanctioned or penalized financially for not having a current individual service plan in the consumer's data file;

(4) copies of assessments, analyses, summaries, and recommendations;

(5) progress review reports;

(6) incidents involving the consumer;

(7) reports required under section 245B.05, subdivision 7;

(8) discharge summary, when applicable;

(9) record of other license holders serving the consumer that includes a contact person and telephone numbers, services being provided, services that require coordination between two license holders, and name of staff responsible for coordination;

(10) information about verbal aggression directed at the consumer by another consumer; and

(11) information about self-abuse.

Subd. 2. **Access to records.** The license holder must ensure that the following people have access to the information in subdivision 1:

- (1) the consumer, the consumer's legal representative, and anyone properly authorized by the consumer or legal representative;
- (2) the consumer's case manager;
- (3) staff providing direct services to the consumer unless the information is not relevant to carrying out the individual service plan; and
- (4) the county adult foster care licenser, when services are also licensed as an adult foster home. Adult foster home means a licensed residence operated by an operator who, for financial gain or otherwise, provides 24-hour foster care to no more than four functionally impaired residents.

Subd. 3. **Retention of consumer's records.** The license holder must retain the records required for consumers for at least three years following termination of services.

Subd. 4. **Staff qualifications.** (a) The license holder must ensure that staff is competent through training, experience, and education to meet the consumer's needs and additional requirements as written in the individual service plan. Staff qualifications must be documented. Staff under 18 years of age may not perform overnight duties or administer medication.

(b) Delivery and evaluation of services provided by the license holder to a consumer must be coordinated by a designated person. The designated person or coordinator must minimally have a four-year degree in a field related to service provision, and one year work experience with consumers with developmental disabilities, a two-year degree in a field related to service provision, and two years of work experience with consumers with developmental disabilities, or a diploma in community-based developmental disability services from an accredited postsecondary institution and two years of work experience with consumers with developmental disabilities. The coordinator must provide supervision, support, and evaluation of activities that include:

- (1) oversight of the license holder's responsibilities designated in the individual service plan;
- (2) instruction and assistance to staff implementing the individual service plan areas;
- (3) evaluation of the effectiveness of service delivery, methodologies, and progress on consumer outcomes based on the condition set for objective change; and
- (4) review of incident and emergency reports, identification of incident patterns, and implementation of corrective action as necessary to reduce occurrences.

(c) The coordinator is responsible for taking the action necessary to facilitate the accomplishment of the outcomes for each consumer as specified in the consumer's individual service plan.

(d) The license holder must provide for adequate supervision of direct care staff to ensure implementation of the individual service plan.

Subd. 5. **Staff orientation.** (a) Within 60 days of hiring staff who provide direct service, the license holder must provide 30 hours of staff orientation. Direct care staff must complete 15 of the 30 hours orientation before providing any unsupervised direct service to a consumer. If the staff person has received orientation training from a license holder licensed under this chapter, or provides semi-independent living services only, the 15-hour requirement may be reduced to eight hours. The total orientation of 30 hours may be reduced to 15 hours if the staff person has previously received orientation training from a license holder licensed under this chapter.

(b) The 30 hours of orientation must combine supervised on-the-job training with review of and instruction on the following material:

(1) review of the consumer's service plans and risk management plan to achieve an understanding of the consumer as a unique individual and staff responsibilities related to implementation of those plans;

(2) review and instruction on implementation of the license holder's policies and procedures, including their location and access;

(3) staff responsibilities related to emergency procedures;

(4) explanation of specific job functions, including implementing objectives from the consumer's individual service plan;

(5) explanation of responsibilities related to section 245A.65; sections 626.556 and 626.557, governing maltreatment reporting and service planning for children and vulnerable adults; and section 245.825, governing use of aversive and deprivation procedures;

(6) medication administration as it applies to the individual consumer, from a training curriculum developed by a health services professional described in section 245B.05, subdivision 5, and when the consumer meets the criteria of having overriding health care needs, then medication administration taught by a health services professional. Staff may administer medications only after they demonstrate the ability, as defined in the license holder's medication administration policy and procedures. Once a consumer with overriding health care needs is admitted, staff will be provided with remedial training as deemed necessary by the license holder and the health professional to meet the needs of that consumer.

For purposes of this section, overriding health care needs means a health care condition that affects the service options available to the consumer because the condition requires:

(i) specialized or intensive medical or nursing supervision; and

(ii) nonmedical service providers to adapt their services to accommodate the health and safety needs of the consumer;

(7) consumer rights and staff responsibilities related to protecting and ensuring the exercise of the consumer rights; and

(8) other topics necessary as determined by the consumer's individual service plan or other areas identified by the license holder.

(c) The license holder must document each employee's orientation received.

Subd. 6. **Staff training.** (a) A license holder providing semi-independent living services shall ensure that direct service staff annually complete hours of training equal to one percent of the number of hours the staff person worked. All other license holders shall ensure that direct service staff annually complete hours of training as follows:

(1) if the direct services staff have been employed for one to 24 months and:

(i) the average number of work hours scheduled per week is 30 to 40 hours, the staff must annually complete 40 training hours;

(ii) the average number of work hours scheduled per week is 20 to 29 hours, the staff must annually complete 30 training hours; and

(iii) the average number of work hours scheduled per week is one to 19 hours, the staff must annually complete 20 training hours; or

(2) if the direct services staff have been employed for more than 24 months and:

(i) the average number of work hours scheduled per week is 30 to 40 hours, the staff must annually complete 20 training hours;

(ii) the average number of work hours scheduled per week is 20 to 29 hours, the staff must annually complete 15 training hours; and

(iii) the average number of work hours scheduled per week is one to 19 hours, the staff must annually complete 12 training hours.

If direct service staff has received training from a license holder licensed under a program rule identified in this chapter or completed course work regarding disability-related issues from a postsecondary educational institute, that training may also count toward training requirements for other services and for other license holders.

(b) The license holder must document the training completed by each employee.

(c) Training shall address staff competencies necessary to address the consumer needs as identified in the consumer's individual service plan and ensure consumer health, safety, and protection of rights. Training may also include other areas identified by the license holder.

(d) For consumers requiring a 24-hour plan of care, the license holder shall provide training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, from a qualified source determined by the commissioner, if the consumer's health needs as determined by the consumer's physician indicate trained staff would be necessary to the consumer.

Subd. 7. **Volunteers.** The license holder must ensure that volunteers who provide direct services to consumers receive the training and orientation necessary to fulfill their responsibilities.

Subd. 7a. **Subcontractors.** If the license holder uses a subcontractor to perform services licensed under this chapter on the license holder's behalf, the license holder must ensure that the subcontractor meets and maintains compliance with all requirements under this chapter that apply to the services to be provided.

Subd. 8. **Policies and procedures.** The license holder must develop and implement the policies and procedures in paragraphs (a) to (c).

(a) Policies and procedures that promote consumer health and safety by ensuring:

(1) consumer safety in emergency situations;

(2) consumer health through sanitary practices;

(3) safe transportation, when the license holder is responsible for transportation of consumers, with provisions for handling emergency situations;

(4) a system of record keeping for both individuals and the organization, for review of incidents and emergencies, and corrective action if needed;

(5) a plan for responding to all incidents, as defined in section 245B.02, subdivision 10, and reporting all incidents required to be reported under section 245B.05, subdivision 7;

(6) safe medication administration as identified in section 245B.05, subdivision 5, incorporating an observed skill assessment to ensure that staff demonstrate the ability to administer medications consistent with the license holder's policy and procedures;

(7) psychotropic medication monitoring when the consumer is prescribed a psychotropic medication, including the use of the psychotropic medication use checklist. If the responsibility for implementing the psychotropic medication use checklist has not been assigned in the

individual service plan and the consumer lives in a licensed site, the residential license holder shall be designated; and

(8) criteria for admission or service initiation developed by the license holder.

(b) Policies and procedures that protect consumer rights and privacy by ensuring:

(1) consumer data privacy, in compliance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act, chapter 13; and

(2) that complaint procedures provide consumers with a simple process to bring grievances and consumers receive a response to the grievance within a reasonable time period. The license holder must provide a copy of the program's grievance procedure and time lines for addressing grievances. The program's grievance procedure must permit consumers served by the program and the authorized representatives to bring a grievance to the highest level of authority in the program.

(c) Policies and procedures that promote continuity and quality of consumer supports by ensuring:

(1) continuity of care and service coordination, including provisions for service termination, temporary service suspension, and efforts made by the license holder to coordinate services with other vendors who also provide support to the consumer. The policy must include the following requirements:

(i) the license holder must notify the consumer or consumer's legal representative and the consumer's case manager in writing of the intended termination or temporary service suspension and the consumer's right to seek a temporary order staying the termination or suspension of service according to the procedures in section 256.045, subdivision 4a or subdivision 6, paragraph (c);

(ii) notice of the proposed termination of services, including those situations that began with a temporary service suspension, must be given at least 60 days before the proposed termination is to become effective;

(iii) the license holder must provide information requested by the consumer or consumer's legal representative or case manager when services are temporarily suspended or upon notice of termination;

(iv) use of temporary service suspension procedures are restricted to situations in which the consumer's behavior causes immediate and serious danger to the health and safety of the individual or others;

(v) prior to giving notice of service termination or temporary service suspension, the license holder must document actions taken to minimize or eliminate the need for service termination or temporary service suspension; and

(vi) during the period of temporary service suspension, the license holder will work with the appropriate county agency to develop reasonable alternatives to protect the individual and others; and

(2) quality services measured through a program evaluation process including regular evaluations of consumer satisfaction and sharing the results of the evaluations with the consumers and legal representatives.

Subd. 9. Availability of current written policies and procedures. The license holder shall:

(1) review and update, as needed, the written policies and procedures in this chapter;

(2) inform consumers or the consumer's legal representatives of the written policies and procedures in this chapter upon service initiation. Copies of policies and procedures affecting a consumer's rights under section 245D.04 must be provided upon service initiation. Copies of all other policies and procedures must be available to consumers or the consumer's legal representatives, case managers, the county where services are located, and the commissioner upon request;

(3) provide all consumers or the consumers' legal representatives and case managers a copy of the revised policies and procedures and explanation of the revisions that affect consumers' service-related or protection-related rights under section 245B.04 and maltreatment reporting policies and procedures. Unless there is reasonable cause, the license holder must provide this notice at least 30 days before implementing the revised policy and procedure. The license holder must document the reason for not providing the notice at least 30 days before implementing the revisions;

(4) annually notify all consumers or the consumers' legal representatives and case managers of any revised policies and procedures under this chapter, other than those in clause (3). Upon request, the license holder must provide the consumer or consumer's legal representative and case manager copies of the revised policies and procedures;

(5) before implementing revisions to policies and procedures under this chapter, inform all employees of the revisions and provide training on implementation of the revised policies and procedures; and

(6) document and maintain relevant information related to the policies and procedures in this chapter.

Subd. 10. **Consumer funds.** (a) The license holder must ensure that consumers retain the use and availability of personal funds or property unless restrictions are justified in the consumer's individual service plan.

(b) The license holder must ensure separation of consumer funds from funds of the license holder, the program, or program staff.

(c) Whenever the license holder assists a consumer with the safekeeping of funds or other property, the license holder must have written authorization to do so by the consumer or the consumer's legal representative, and the case manager. In addition, the license holder must:

(1) document receipt and disbursement of the consumer's funds or the property;

(2) annually survey, document, and implement the preferences of the consumer, consumer's legal representative, and the case manager for frequency of receiving a statement that itemizes receipts and disbursements of consumer funds or other property; and

(3) return to the consumer upon the consumer's request, funds and property in the license holder's possession subject to restrictions in the consumer's individual service plan, as soon as possible, but no later than three working days after the date of the request.

(d) License holders and program staff must not:

(1) borrow money from a consumer;

(2) purchase personal items from a consumer;

(3) sell merchandise or personal services to a consumer;

(4) require a consumer to purchase items for which the license holder is eligible for reimbursement;

(5) use consumer funds in a manner that would violate section 256B.04, or any rules promulgated under that section; or

(6) accept powers-of-attorney from a person receiving services from the license holder for any purpose, and may not accept an appointment as guardian or conservator of a person receiving services from the license holder. This does not apply to license holders that are Minnesota counties or other units of government.

Subd. 11. **Travel time to and from a day training and habilitation site.** Except in unusual circumstances, the license holder must not transport a consumer receiving services for longer than 90 minutes per one-way trip. Nothing in this subdivision relieves the provider of the obligation to provide the number of program hours as identified in the individualized service plan.

Subd. 12. **Separate license required for separate sites.** The license holder shall apply for separate licenses for each day training and habilitation service site owned or leased by the license holder at which persons receiving services and the provider's employees who provide training and habilitation services are present for a cumulative total of more than 30 days within any 12-month period, and for each residential service site. Notwithstanding this subdivision, a separate license is not required for:

(1) a day training and habilitation service site used only for the limited purpose of providing transportation to consumers receiving community-based day training and habilitation services from a license holder;

(2) a day training and habilitation program that is in a separate building that is adjacent to the central operation of the day training and habilitation program; or

(3) a satellite day training and habilitation program. For purposes of this clause, a satellite day training and habilitation program is a program that is affiliated with the central operations of an existing day training and habilitation program and is in a separate nonadjacent building in the same county as the central operation day training and habilitation program.

Subd. 13. **Variance.** The commissioner may grant a variance to any of the requirements in sections 245B.02 to 245B.07 except section 245B.07, subdivision 8(1)(vii), or provisions governing data practices and information rights of consumers if the conditions in section 245A.04, subdivision 9 are met. Upon the request of the license holder, the commissioner shall continue variances from the standards in this chapter previously granted under Minnesota Rules that are repealed as a result of this chapter. The commissioner may approve variances for a license holder on a program, geographic, or organizational basis.

History: 1997 c 248 s 41; 3Sp1997 c 3 s 7,8; 1999 c 245 art 4 s 12-14; 2002 c 289 s 3; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 3 s 3; art 6 s 18,19; 2004 c 288 art 1 s 36,37; 2005 c 56 s 1; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 1 s 25; 2008 c 268 s 1; 2012 c 216 art 18 s 12-15; 2012 c 247 art 4 s 10

245B.08 COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES.

Subdivision 1. **Alternative methods of determining compliance.** (a) In addition to methods specified in chapters 245A and 245C, the commissioner may use alternative methods and new regulatory strategies to determine compliance with this section. The commissioner may use sampling techniques to ensure compliance with this section. Notwithstanding section 245A.09, subdivision 7, paragraph (e), the commissioner may also extend periods of licensure, not to exceed five years, for license holders who have demonstrated substantial and consistent compliance with sections 245B.02 to 245B.07 and have consistently maintained the health and safety of consumers and have demonstrated by alternative methods in paragraph (b) that they

meet or exceed the requirements of this section. For purposes of this section, "substantial and consistent compliance" means that during the current licensing period:

- (1) the license holder's license has not been made conditional, suspended, or revoked;
- (2) there have been no substantiated allegations of maltreatment against the license holder;
- (3) there have been no program deficiencies that have been identified that would jeopardize the health or safety of consumers being served; and
- (4) the license holder is in substantial compliance with the other requirements of chapters 245A and 245C and other applicable laws and rules.

(b) To determine the length of a license, the commissioner shall consider:

- (1) information from affected consumers, and the license holder's responsiveness to consumers' concerns and recommendations;
- (2) self assessments and peer reviews of the standards of this section, corrective actions taken by the license holder, and sharing the results of the inspections with consumers, the consumers' families, and others, as requested;
- (3) length of accreditation by an independent accreditation body, if applicable;
- (4) information from the county where the license holder is located; and
- (5) information from the license holder demonstrating performance that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of this chapter.

(c) The commissioner may reduce the length of the license if the license holder fails to meet the criteria in paragraph (a) and the conditions specified in paragraph (b).

Subd. 2. **Additional measures.** The commissioner may require the license holder to implement additional measures on a time-limited basis to ensure the health and safety of consumers when the health and safety of consumers has been determined to be at risk as determined by substantiated incidents of maltreatment under sections 626.556 and 626.557. The license holder may request reconsideration of the actions taken by the commissioner under this subdivision according to section 245A.06.

Subd. 3. **Sanctions available.** Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the commissioner's authority to suspend or revoke a license or issue a fine at any time under section 245A.07; make correction orders and make a license conditional for failure to comply with applicable laws or rules under section 245A.06; or deny an application for license under section 245A.05.

Subd. 4. **Efficient application.** The commissioner shall establish application procedures for license holders licensed under this chapter to reduce the need to submit duplicative material.

Subd. 5. **Information.** The commissioner shall make information available to consumers and interested others regarding the licensing status of a license holder.

Subd. 6. **Implementation.** The commissioner shall seek advice from parties affected by the implementation of this chapter.

Subd. 7. **Deem status.** The commissioner may exempt a license holder from duplicative standards if the license holder is already licensed under chapter 245A.

History: 1997 c 248 s 42; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 14 s 25; 2002 c 379 art 1 s 113; 2003 c 15 art 1 s 33; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 6 s 20