

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

State of Mississippi

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TO: All DMH Certified Providers

FROM: Dr. Robert Maddux, DMH Medical Director

RE: Transition to DSM-5

DATE: May 11, 2015

The American Psychiatric Association published the 5th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) in mid-2013. This publication brought forth many revisions to define disorders and characterize symptoms and behaviors. With the ICD-10 implementation on the horizon (October 1, 2015), the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) will officially transition to the DSM-5 beginning July 1, 2015 with full implementation occurring by October 1, 2015.

As professionals within the public mental health system we realize the importance of understanding these revisions. In order to transition to the DSM-5, I would like to encourage each of your agencies to develop a transition plan that includes training for your clinical staff prior to implementation of the DSM-5. Relias Learning, the online learning management system utilized by the majority of DMH Certified Providers, offers several courses that can assist with training your staff. I, and other DMH clinical staff, have reviewed the course entitled "DSM-5 Overview" and believe it would be beneficial component of your transition plan. This course will introduce you to the changes to a non-axial system, new dimensional assessments, new terminology used throughout the DSM-5, cultural considerations, as well as some of the major criticisms of the new guide.

Should you have any questions about the use of Relias, please feel free to contact DMH's Division of Professional Development at 601-359-1288.