

**DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION
AND LICENSING**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
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September 15, 2005

Yvonne Nair-Gill
Executive Director
WAAODA, Inc
6601 Grand Teton Plaza, Suite A
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Dear Wisconsin Association on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Members:

In Wisconsin's 2006-07 State Budget, the responsibility for the certification of alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) counselors was transferred from the Wisconsin Certification Board (WCB) under the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL). We recognize that this will be a significant change and will present many challenges. We want to assure you that we are working collaboratively to make this a smooth transition. Staff from DHFS, DRL and WCB has met to begin the transfer.

We have heard from many of you about some of your concerns. We want to emphasize that we are taking them into consideration as we move this process along. We are committed to ensuring a competent and culturally diverse workforce so that we can address the state's needs for AODA treatment. As our agencies work together, we want to emphasize that the transfer of the AODA process will not compromise the quality of the certification process or the professionals who currently hold AODA credentials. We believe that DRL has the structure and staff dedication to enhance the profession.

An advisory committee will be selected this fall to provide consultation to DRL to promulgate rules for administration and to define the scope of practice. We hope to have the committee in place to begin work in January 2006.

We are aware that substance abuse is a health priority in Wisconsin. We are committed to providing the necessary services to our citizens and insuring that we have a strong and viable workforce to address their needs.

On behalf of the Department of Health and Family Services and the Department of Regulation and Licensing, we say thank you to WAAODA for all of your hard work in this area. We appreciate your patience and support and welcome your participation. We look forward to a meaningful and successful collaboration on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Celia M. Jackson in black ink.

Celia M. Jackson
Secretary
Department of Regulation and Licensing

Handwritten signature of Helene Nelson in black ink.

Helene Nelson
Secretary
Department of Health and Family Services