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**Date:** October 5, 2006 DDES-BQA Memo 06-023

<b>To:</b>	Adult Day Care Centers	ADC 07
	Adult Family Homes	AFH 08
	Ambulatory Surgery Centers	ASC 04
	Certified Mental Health and AODA	CMHA 02
	Community Based Residential Facilities	CBRF 10
	End Stage Renal Dialysis Units	ESRD 03
	Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled (FDD)	FDD 05
	Home Health Agencies	HHA 03
	Hospices	HSPC 06
	Hospitals	HOSP 08
	Nurse Aide Training Programs	NATP 02
	Nursing Homes	NH 13
	Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities	OPT/SP 02
	Residential Care Apartment Complexes	RCAC 07
	Rural Health Clinics	RHC 02

**From:** Secretary Helene Nelson  
Sinikka Santala, DDES Administrator  
Otis Woods, Bureau Director

**BQA Transfer and Name Change**

Effective October 15, the Bureau of Quality Assurance will transfer from the Division of Disability and Elder Services (DDES) to the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). The Bureau of Quality Assurance will be renamed the Office of Quality Assurance and will report directly to the DHFS Secretary's Office.

During the past year, BQA has become a strong organization with a stable and competent management team. It is now well positioned to become an office with direct reporting structure to the Secretary's Office.

This realignment further implements the original DDES reorganization plan approved by the Department of Administration in March 2003, which indicates that future reengineering and changes to bureau structure may be necessary. This realignment further implements DDES restructuring by removing the perceived conflict of interest within DDES inherent in the current organizational structure that contains the five regulated entities along with the regulating agency.

For providers and stakeholders, the transfer of BQA to the secretary's office will be transparent. The Office of Quality Assurance will continue to be comprised of four sections with staff in regional and central offices. The only significant change is that the OQA will have office status and will report directly to DHFS Deputy Secretary.

DDES and OQA will continue to share many strategic goals for quality improvement, regulatory flexibility and person centered services as we continue to reform the long-term care system and improve service in the mental health and substance abuse area. Expect these two organizations to continue to collaborate towards these shared goals to ensure quality of life and quality of care for Wisconsin vulnerable citizens.

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