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March 20, 2013

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Iraida Orr, Principal Analyst

Re: SB 121 – Accreditation Survey

The House Committee on Health and Human Services requested information regarding how the passage of SB 121 (providing for Osawatomie State Hospital and Rainbow Mental Health Facility to be jointly issued one license) would affect the manner in which accreditation surveys would be completed by The Joint Commission. The Committee questioned whether both facilities would be surveyed at the same time, or whether surveying of only one facility would be considered sufficient to allow accreditation of both facilities under one license.

The Joint Commission (TJC), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) were contacted in an effort to address the Committee's questions.

Stephanie Scott, Senior Account Executive, TJC, addressed the questions regarding the nature of TJC survey processes should both facilities be licensed under one license, in a March 18, 2013, e-mail response as follows:

For Joint Commission purposes, we require each hospital to obtain licensure from their state. Since each state handles licensing differently, the state of Kansas will be your ultimate authority on how licensure for your facilities are handled. Simply combining licensure may not affect the current accreditation process at all. However, as I mentioned on the phone, if this change in licensure also entails a change to the CMS Certification Number (CCN), then this is what could potentially affect Joint Commission accreditation. Obtaining a new CCN for each of the facilities can sometimes trigger the need for a new survey if a change in ownership or other merger/acquisition is involved. If a change resulted in two facilities merging under one shared CCN (not the same as sharing a license, but please check with your state on specifics), then we would most likely survey both facilities as one organization, with surveyors visiting one site first, and then the next, and file any findings under one survey report.

If no change of ownership or facility merger is taking place, and the CCN is not affected, this licensure change will probably not impact your accreditation.

KDHE responded to the inquiry in a March 19, 2013, e-mail by stating, if the bill passes:

KDHE would have to conduct an initial licensing survey as a new single license would be issued for Osawatomie State Hospital and the Rainbow Mental Health Facilities. Further, the Joint Commission surveys them, and they have indicated that if they are under one license, they will survey both facilities at the same time.

KDHE was provided the March 18, 2013, TJC response, which appears to indicate the key to the survey process was whether the two facilities merged under one shared CCN. KDHE confirmed it was the agency's understanding a request would be made for a single CCN for the two facilities.

On March 19, 2013, KDADS confirmed the agency planned to request one CCN to be shared by the two facilities.

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