

From: Remony Henry
To: OIC Rules Coordinator
Subject: Comments on R2014-08
Date: Friday, October 24, 2014 2:29:44 PM

My name is Remony Henry, I am a licensed clinical social worker in private practice on Vashon Island. I would like to request to be added to the OIC stakeholder's list (rmtr@fix.net license # xxxxxxxxxx) and I would like to submit comments on the initial exposure draft of the proposed rule text for R2014-08 Provider Network Rules, phase 2.

My comments are in reference to WAC 284-43-202 on Maintenance of Sufficient Networks.

I am concerned that Vashon Island has a low number of providers for behavioral health services and those of us that are providers are often full and unable to take new clients who are requesting care. I believe it is particularly challenging for enrollees with Group Health Cooperative Insurance to find a local mental health provider with availability. Certain issuers have told clients that they must travel off of the island to receive mental health services. They do not seem to understand that a person must allow 5 hours to travel off the island for a one hour medical appointment in Seattle. Although the distance is not far in actual miles, the need to wait for and travel by ferry greatly increases the travel time and expense required. I believe it is an undue hardship for issuers to require enrollees to travel off of the island to receive care rather than authorize local clinicians to provide that care.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information on this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Remony Henry LICSW