Ending the Modifications to Detoxification Program Licensing Requirements

In May 2020, the commissioner issued a waiver suspending or modifying certain detoxification program licensing requirements so that essential services could continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2021, programs were directed to begin resuming certain requirements. On June 30, the Minnesota Legislature voted to end the state peacetime emergency effective Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. This means that some temporary modifications put in place during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency will be ending immediately while other modifications will end on August 30, 2021. The legislature only allowed DHS to extend some of the waivers for 60 days beyond the end of the peacetime emergency, after which providers must return to following all licensing requirements as provided in rule and statute. License holders must resume meeting requirements in rule and statute according to the following timelines.

Effective immediately on July 2, 2021:

1. DHS recommends that providers continue to follow COVID-19 guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
2. Providers are no longer required to maintain and update a COVID-19 preparedness plan, however, providers may find their plan to be a useful resource in the event someone tests positive for COVID-19.

Effective on August 31, 2021 (60 days after the end of the peacetime emergency):

Effective August 31, 2021, your program must be fully compliant with all relevant statutes and rules, including the following previously waived requirements that have not otherwise expired:

1. Programs must not use a chemical dependency assessor as a technician to meet the staff ratio requirements in 9530.6560, subpart 3.
2. Programs must resume meeting the chemical dependency assessor ratio requirements in 9530.6560, subpart 6.