

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

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Bill Owens
Governor

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Marva Livingston Hammons
Executive Director

Fred L. DeCrescentis
Director

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Community Centered Board Executive Directors
Program Approved Service Agency Directors
Regional Center Directors**

FROM: Fred L. DeCrescentis, Director

RE: Prohibition for the Use of Prone Physical Restraint

DATE: October 12, 2004

The purpose of this memo is to request immediate cessation of the use of physical restraint of persons in a prone (on his/her stomach) position. Due to recent and unfortunate events in both community and state operated services, DDD is concerned that this intervention strategy may contribute to increased risk of injury or death.

Within the last several weeks, DDD has become aware of two deaths of persons receiving services that have involved the use prone physical restraints. Additionally, preliminary examination of research and literature on the use of physical restraint indicates that restraint techniques in which the person is placed in a prone position have been implicated in sudden death and positional asphyxia.

After careful review of these issues DDD is hereby requesting that all community centered board, program approved agency and regional center staff immediately cease the use of any and all physical restraint techniques that include placing the person in a prone position or restraining a person in a prone position as part of an emergency or safety control procedure (as specified in Rules 16.530 and 16.540).

DDD will be reviewing the use of prone physical restraint techniques as one task for a working committee in its review of the use of restraints in response to behavioral and psychiatric emergencies. DDD anticipates organizing and convening such a committee within the next several weeks to review these issues.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this memo please contact Matthew Solano (303-866-7439 or matthew.solano@state.co.us). Thank you.

cc: CACCB
CCB Partners
Colorado Department of Health and Environment/Health Facilities Division
The Legal Center
John Daurio, OADRS
DDD Central Office Staff

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