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TO: Executive Directors

FROM: John M. Connolly, Ph.D., Deputy Director  
Policy, Strategic Planning, and Communications  
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: **ASSEMBLY BILL 848 (STONE, MARK), ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES**

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform you that Assembly Bill (AB) 848 was recently signed into law by Governor Brown. The previous law, counter to best practices and other certification requirements, prohibited the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) from licensing facilities that used a physician to evaluate or provide medical care to facility clients. This legislation now authorizes residential treatment facilities to allow a physician or other eligible medical practitioner to provide incidental medical services to treat conditions associated with drug and alcohol addiction and recovery, and that are deemed to be treatable on-site, rather than in a clinic or hospital.

AB 848 requires that facilities seeking licensure adhere to protocol that protects client privacy, notifies clients of financial responsibility for medical care, and clearly defines the level of medical care to be provided. The language of the bill can be found here: <https://goo.gl/vKQ3ZG>. The bill will be effective as of January 2016, and DHCS will promulgate final regulations by July 1, 2017 to implement the policy.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Hyunhye Seo at (626) 299-3262 or [hseo@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:hseo@ph.lacounty.gov).

JMC:hs