

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Aging

DATE: February 24, 2006

TO: Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ivonne Bucher, Director
Office of Community Services & Advocacy

SUBJECT: Revised Language for Aging Program Directive #96-04-01, "Senior Community Center and Satellite Center Policies and Standards"

Attached you will find a revised language for Section IV.1.a.2, Building Requirements, of Aging Program Directive #96-04-01. This revision concerns the Certificate of Occupancy that must be obtained for the building in which the senior community center operates. Changes to the policy are necessary due to the implementation of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) from the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I). Please insert the change into your policy.

The changes involve Pennsylvania's statewide building code called the UCC. In 2004, Pennsylvania's 2,565 municipalities were allowed to decide whether the UCC would be administered and enforced locally or whether that responsibility would remain with the Department of L&I. Municipalities could either "opt in," or "opt out." If a municipality has "opted in", all UCC enforcement is local, except where municipal (or third party) code officials lack the certification necessary to approve plans and inspect commercial construction for compliance with UCC accessibility requirements. If a municipality has "opted out," L&I is responsible for all commercial code enforcement in that municipality.

L&I has a complete and up-to-date listing of each municipality and its determination to "opt in" or "opt out." The list can be found at <http://www.dli.state.pa.us/landi/lib/landi/ucc/uccmun.htm>. You can also reach this list from L&I's homepage, www.dli.state.pa.us by clicking on the link titled "Building Codes" under the section Quick Links on the right side menu.

This change is effective immediately upon issuance and the revised APD language for the Section IV.1.a.2 reads:

"Centers must have on file a Certificate of Occupancy issued by either the Department of Labor and Industry or a municipality that has elected to administer the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), ensuring that the building meets the requirements of the UCC. If the building was approved prior to the effective date

of the UCC, Centers must have occupancy permits indicating compliance with the Fire and Panic Law. A copy of the Certificate of Occupancy (or occupancy permit) must be visibly displayed at the site and a copy must accompany any request made to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to open or relocate a center.”

This replaces the following language currently in the APD:

“Centers must have on file, a Certificate of Occupancy from the Department of Labor & Industry ensuring that the building meets the requirements of the State Fire and Panic Code. A copy of the certificate must be visibly displayed at the site. In Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton where Labor and Industry certification is not applicable, a Certificate of Compliance with local building codes is required.”

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Consumer Community Support Services at (717) 783-6207.