



**MetroWest
Center For
Independent Living**

**People with Disabilities
Living in the Community**

Public Hearings on New DDS Regulations

Two public hearings have been scheduled by the Department of Developmental Services regarding proposed amendments which are intended to broaden eligibility for services. (See the memo below from Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director of The Arc of Massachusetts.) The changes have special significance for people with autism. Visit the [State House Public Hearing webpage](#) for the Public Notice, The Changes to Definitions and the Proposed Eligibility Regulations.

Public Hearings

When:

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where:

McCormack Building, 21st Floor, Room 1
One Ashburton Place
Boston

When:

Thursday, Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where:

Northborough Free Library
34 Main Street
Northborough

Written comments will also be accepted as described in the [Public Notice](#).

Memo from Leo Sarkissian,
Executive Director of
The Arc of Massachusetts
*The Department of Developmental Services -
DDS has released new eligibility regulations.*

MWCIL



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Living**

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In response to the law authorizing services to certain groups with developmental disabilities passed by the legislature this summer, DDS released its new eligibility regulations. You can find the regulations [here](#) as well as information on the public hearings.

DDS references the most current DSM (diagnostic statistical manual of the American Psychiatric Association) for the definition of autism, references the National Institute of Health for Smith-Magenis syndrome and Prader-Willi syndrome. The definition of developmental disability appears consistent with the federal definition. It is edited to address the specific disabilities covered as well as an allowance for younger children. You can review the definitions and eligibility regulations proposed along with the schedule of public hearings [here](#).



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