1.0 Subject and Purpose

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is issuing this letter to remind providers licensed as Type A ALFs that a resident admitted to a Type A ALF must be capable of traveling from his or her room to a centralized space within a 13-minute time frame.

2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

Because of an editorial error, the requirement that: "A resident in a Type A facility must be able to demonstrate to HHSC that the resident can travel from the resident's living unit to a centralized space, such as a lobby, living or dining room on the level of discharge within a 13-minute period without continuous staff assistance. Elevators cannot be used as an evacuation route," was inadvertently removed from the ALF licensing standards. HHSC will include this requirement when 26 TAC Chapter 553, §553.5(b), is amended during the ongoing Chapter 553 Rule reorganization project.

The amended rule will require a resident in a Type A ALF to:

- be physically and mentally capable of evacuating the facility without physical assistance from staff, which may include an individual who is mobile, although non-ambulatory, such as an individual who uses a wheelchair or an electric cart, and has the capacity to transfer and evacuate himself or herself in an emergency;

- not require routine attendance during nighttime sleeping hours;
• be capable of following directions under emergency conditions; and

• be able to demonstrate to HHSC that the resident can travel from the resident's living unit to a centralized space, such as a lobby, living or dining room on the level of discharge within a 13-minute period without continuous staff assistance. Elevators cannot be used as an evacuation route.

Although the requirement is not currently in rule, facilities must ensure that a resident in a Type A facility can travel from his or her room to the level of exit within the 13-minute timeframe.

**3.0 Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call (512) 438-3161.