



B. J. Walker, Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Resources • Division of Family and Children Services • David Statton, Interim Director
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August 4, 2008

To: DFCS Private Foster Care Provider Community (CCIs and CPAs)

From: Yvonne Rodgers, Program Director, Division of Family Children Services,
Provider Relations

Subject: Establishment of a Provider Certification/Training Benchmark

As you are all aware, one of the requirements of the Kenny A consent decree is that DHR/DFCS Private Provider agencies, with whom we contract for the provision of placements for children in DFCS custody, shall be required to certify that employees providing case management or supervisory services for DFCS have met the following criteria:

- a. Have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university;
- b. Have completed a training curriculum consisting of at least 160 hours of classroom, internet and/or supervised field instruction, unless waived by the Director of Education and Training Section in accordance with the Office of Child Protective Services New Case Manager Training Waiver Guidelines issued 4/1/05, or comparable guidelines.
- c. Have a passing score on the case manager and/or supervisor online assessment required for new worker certification as of 7/1/05.
- d. Have 20 hours of job related ongoing professional development annually.

In order to meet these requirements, I would like to first establish a baseline of where the private provider community is with respect to training and certification. I am asking that you provide me with the following information about your agency:

- a. A description or list of all case management activities being performed by your employees.
- b. A list of employees performing case management.
- c. A list of all employees' credentials that have contact with children.
- d. The names of the governing bodies that have accredited you.
- e. Your accreditation body's training requirements (initial & annual).

This communication was sent out initially in March of 2008. The overall response from the community was very poor. Your support in this effort assists us all. The benchmark will enable DFCS to properly target any necessary training or strengthen the possibility of a waiver for each agency. Utilize either my postal address (above) or email address to respond by August 22, 2008. Once all of the information is collected we can construct a sound baseline. That baseline is a prerequisite for communicating next steps to you for training. As always, I appreciate your support. If you have additional questions, I can be reached at 404-657-3572 or via email at yrodgers@dhr.ga.gov.

Finally, thank you for all of the work you do on behalf of the children in the State of Georgia.

Yvonne Rodgers
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