



Next - November

### **PALS Agenda, August 2014**

- 1) New Background Check process. Private Agencies will NO longer be getting the applicants RAP Sheets. Regional licensing staff will be sending any criminal history directly to the applicant and will notify the agency when it has been sent. The agency is responsible for contacting the applicant for the information. DLR will continue sending the agency clearance letters to maintain in their files.
  - a. New Administrative Approval Form and Secretary's List as of June 12, 2014
  - b. Please do not send in Fingerprint notice forms, if fingerprints are not needed. It can be confusing to the background check liaison and we don't want any unnecessary fingerprints.
    - i. Fingerprints are only needed at new licenses, new adults move into the home, biological children turn 18 years, respite, and breaks in service.
- 2) Prudent Parent ESSB 6479:
  - a. There were two emergency WAC's to address the Prudent Parent Bill that was passed during the legislative session.
    - i. WAC: 388-148-0455 & 388-148-0550 (Attached).
  - b. **If there is an existing court order or supervision plan, this supersedes Prudent Parent**
  - c. The Department is working on Caregiver Guidelines for Foster Childhood Activities. This should be completed within the next month.
  - d. Foster parents can allow a foster child to stay with a friend/FP's relative for up to 72 hours without a background check or social worker approval.
  - e. *Respite*: If the foster child puts the foster home over their capacity an *overcapacity form* needs to be completed and the licenser needs to approve this.
- 3) Phone coverage in a home: there must be a phone (land-line or cell) available at all times (when children are present) that has coverage anywhere in the home.
- 4) Carbon Monoxide Alarms are not currently required.
- 5) Attitudes on Parenting Section in the Home Study: Please include the GLBTQ information in this section
- 6) Permanency Questions: In the Guide, Section I the top portion (first 7 bullets) need to be answered for all home studies. If agencies are choosing not to make this an adoption home study, but only a licensing home study they do not need to complete the following 6 questions in this section, starting with "*Concept of adoption/guardianship/longer term foster care as a life- long developments process and commitment*" Those applicants also do not need to complete the following 3 forms:
  - a. Financial Form
  - b. Marital form
  - c. Medical form

***If at a later date that family wants to adopt*** the agency is responsible (free of charge to the Department) for completing any updates, the 6 permanency questions, and the 3 forms listed above in order to complete the requirements for the adoption home study.

- 7) Marijuana: FP's growing marijuana in their homes?
  - a. *Medical Marijuana cards* allow for an individual to grow up to 15 plants for personal use. The marijuana must be inaccessible to foster children often requiring it to be locked up. If a foster parent does not have a medical marijuana card, it is against the law to grow marijuana unless they have been licensed to be a "producer". **Site Specific Supervision Plans** are required to help with storage and accessibility for children.
- 8) First Aid Supplies: Resuscitation masks are no longer required, because training has changed and they are only teaching compressions.
- 9) TB testing: It is only required one time, prior to licensing (unless they have a break in service).
- 10) The Certification Card has been updated. One change is that it now says ages of foster children from \_\_\_\_ "to" \_\_\_\_ years (Attached)
- 11) Tdap (ages 7 and above) or DTaP (ages 0-6 years) is required for any caregiver and their household members *when providing care to a child ages 0 to 2 years*. These requirements have been put on the File Checklist.
- 12) Requirements for sewage and liquid wastes: The family must have a functioning sewage system that is either public or approved by the County or DOH. There is no requirement on verifying the septic system was clean. If there is an odor or another indicator that it needs to be cleaned, the licensor can request it. *check flush of toilets/septic*
- 13) Trampolines: It is encouraged that the FP follow the manufacturer's recommendations, which is the child needs to be 6 years of age. FP should also be encouraged to check with their home owners/rental insurance as well. This activity would fall under Prudent Parent Legislation, allowing the caregiver to make reasonable decisions regarding childhood activities. The licensor will need a *site specific safety and supervision plan* to address how the child will be monitored.
- 14) Mandatory Reporting: Tools and Power Point located at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/safety/abuseReq.asp?2> and Mandatory reporting video found on the Foster Parent Training website <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/preservice.asp>
- 15) Medications: The specific names of the medications are not required to be put in the home study, but the conditions that the applicant is taking medication for needs to be in the home study.
- 16) Please remember to have the foster parent get social worker approval (SW will get Tribal, court, or bio parent approval) prior to having the child's hair style significantly changed (does not include maintenance haircuts or standard trims), attending religious services (if child and biological parent choices are in conflict), or being baptized.

**Thank you for your participation in the PAL's Meeting!**

**If you have any agenda items for the PAL's Meeting in November please let you Regional Licensor know.**