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Brad Little
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James Steed
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Executive Director

January 21, 2020

Senator Martin, Chairman
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Statehouse
Boise, ID 83720

RE: Docket No. 16-0319-1901 Rules Governing Certified Family Homes

Dear Chairman Martin and Members of the Committee:

The Council on Developmental Disabilities is authorized by federal and state law to monitor systems and policies and to advocate for improved and enhanced services that enable Idahoans with developmental disabilities to live meaningful lives, included in their schools and communities. The Council is comprised of 23 volunteers appointed by the Governor.

The DD Council supports the proposed rules Docket No. 16-0319-1901 *Rules Governing Certified Family Homes*. The Council sits on the Community Care Advisory Council which oversees Residential Assisted Living Facilities and Certified Family Homes, these rules were presented to the advisory committee twice in the past year for its review, input and recommendations.

The DD Council applauds the Division of Licensing and Certification for the additional protections included in Section 9 and Section 113:

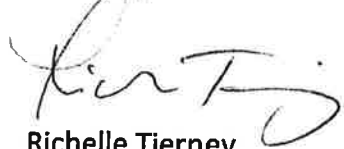
- 1) Section 9, *Criminal History and Background Check Requirements*, outlining requirements that care providers, substitute caregivers, and other adults living in certified family homes (excluding residents receiving care) clear a recurring criminal history and background check through the Department of Health & Welfare at least every five (5) years; and
- 2) Section 113, *Denial of Application for Certificate*, adding language within this section that allows the department to deny the application for a certified family home certificate when the applicant has had a child care or foster care license denied or revoked in the past.

The Certified Family Home (CHF's) program is intended to provide a safe, family-style living environment for adults who need some assistance with the activities of daily living but do not require a more restrictive institutional setting 2018 data shows there are 3,425 Certified Family Homes beds. These CFHs are limited to no more than four individuals, but generally 1-2 people reside there. Approximately 72% of the residents of CFHs are people with developmental disabilities.

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities appreciates the vigilance for which the Division of Licensing and Certification acts upon in ensuring the safety and protection of individuals who are at high risk of abuse and exploitation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richelle Tierney', written in a cursive style.

Richelle Tierney

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities