

State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Professionals



FISCAL YEAR 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ensuring that children in Maryland's residential child care programs are provided the best possible care.

Background

The State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals was established in 2004 for purpose of certifying individuals who are responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of residential child care programs. Passage of Chapter 218 of the Acts of the 2008 General Assembly expands the Board's purview to include the certification of residential child and youth care practitioners ("RCYCP") or direct care workers by October 2013, as well as, membership of the Board to include a RCYCP representative. The Board continues to make significant progress in fulfilling its mission and meeting key milestones.

Achievements for Fiscal Year 2008

- Adopted regulations establishing quality standards for residential child care program administrators;
- Reviewed and evaluated the State Standards Examination for program administrators;
- Established a continuing education approval and auditing process in anticipation of renewal cycle;
- Created a complaint form and instituted a complaint process;
- Issued Spring, Summer and Fall Newsletters;
- Developed a work plan and began drafting regulations for implementing the certification requirement for RCYCPs;
- Completed the first certification cycle;
- Enhanced the Board's website to include on-line verifications; and,
- Hired staff.



Challenges for Fiscal Year 2009



Certifying RCYCPs by October 2013 will result in more than a 45-percent increase in the Board's workload. In order for the Board to meet the 2013 deadline, it will need to implement the certification process for RCYCPs by the Fall of 2010. Moreover, the Board will need to certify more than 3,000 direct care workers each year for the period of 2010 to 2013.

The Board supports professionalizing the role of RCYCPs, however, this new requirement cannot be undertaken without additional resources. The Board's FY 2009 Appropriation did not include any additional funding or positions required for the implementation of this new mandate. In response, the Board requested additional positions and funding for FY 2010 to ensure that the Board is able to meet this new mandate.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2009

- Finalize draft regulations for RCYCPs;
- Initiate a MOA or RFP to develop the Standards Examination and study guide for RCYCPs;
- Create an application form and develop a certification process for RCYCPs;
- Modify Board's licensing database to accommodate RCYCPs;
- Investigate on-line renewals for program administrators;
- Identify, in collaboration with licensing agencies, topics for educational alerts for program administrators;
- Foster the development of continuing education opportunities for program administrators;
- Issue quarterly newsletters; and,
- Advocate for additional resources to implement RCYCP certification.