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State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

February 6, 2002

BRL-CW-Memo 02-02

TO: Licensed Group Foster Homes

FROM: *JWA*
Julia W. Strong, Acting Director
Bureau of Regulation and Licensing

RE: Revision of Ch. HFS 57 Relating to Group Foster Homes for Children

The Bureau of Regulation and Licensing is starting the process to revise HFS 57, the group foster home licensing administrative rule. The current rule was originally promulgated in 1976. The rule will be updated to reflect current standards and to more adequately address the service needs of children and youth currently being placed into group foster homes.

The first step in the process involves describing the rule's objective and the new policies proposed to be included in the rule. A copy of this "Statement of Scope" is enclosed. It was published on January 31, 2002 in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

The Bureau of Regulation and Licensing will establish a time-limited advisory committee comprised of licensed providers and representatives of related professional organizations. The recommendations of the advisory committee will be considered in the development of the final rule language.

When a final draft of the rule has been developed and approved within the department, we will conduct formal public hearings to provide an opportunity for the public to express their views about the new rule. You will be notified of the date(s) and time(s) of these hearings. The final proposed rule is then submitted to the legislature for review and final promulgation.

Please check the Bureau's website at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/rl_dcfs/index.htm after March 1, 2002 for rule development updates; or contact your regional licensing specialist for further information.

On another matter, Patty Hammes, who served as Director of the Bureau of Regulation and Licensing for over 8 years, accepted another position within DHFS effective January 1. I am the licensing chief for the Northern Region of BRL and will serve as Acting BRL Director until a permanent appointment is made, which should be in the near future. I look forward to working with you during this interim period.

cc: BRL Licensing Chiefs
BRL Child Welfare Licensing Specialists
Sally Hanko Dees, BRL Child Welfare Program Specialist
Interested Parties

Enclosure