

Senate Bill 1515 Rules Advisory Committee

To: Child Caring Agencies (CCA) and Proctor Foster Home Partners

From: DHS Director Clyde Saiki

Senate Bill 1515: Rules Advisory Committee

August 31, 2016

Thank you to members of the Senate Bill 1515 Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) who met on Monday, August 29, 2016. The purpose of a RAC is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the rule development process. During the all-day session it became clear that more communication is needed regarding what the Department of Human Services (DHS) is doing to help partners meet the requirements of the law.

Notifications

Since the stakeholder meeting in July, the Department worked with DOJ to better align the notification process with the intent of the statute and modified the number of people who are immediately notified. For example, your agency board members are no longer notified in the early stages of DHS learning of potential issues within a Child Caring Agency (CCA). Also, as a result of your suggestion, we now include a "cc:" in the notification letters identifying which entities have also received the same letter

In addition to the notifications required in this rule, the Department will implement an internal procedure to "close the loop" with parties who are notified at the beginning of an investigation so the parties are also aware of the outcome. A more detailed one-pager on notifications will be distributed as soon as we refine the procedure.

What to report

I want to remind you that as mandatory reporters, your obligation **as always** is to call the hotline (1-855-503-SAFE) whenever you suspect any **abuse and or neglect** has occurred. This has not changed.

When an incident occurs in a CCA or proctor foster home, providers will continue to follow the same process and procedure for completing Incident Reports and sending them to the assigned coordinator in DHS licensing and well-being units.

SB 1515 does not obligate CCA staff to report information to the CCA reports email or phone line. CCA staff reporting obligations have not changed.

SB 1515 requires **DHS staff** to report information to the CCA reports email or call 1-503-945-6843 when **DHS staff** have reasonable cause to believe that a CCA is violating a licensing or contractual standard possibly placing a child at risk. For example a DHS staff is concerned that a CCA isn't providing personal hygiene products for the children or youth it serves.

DHS Support

The Department is working hard to support our partners in keeping children in their care safe. The Department has instituted an internal process to get provider needs addressed as quickly as possible. With better coordination and an ability to flag urgent issues for example, fast-tracking required training, we can help keep you operating safely. Our goal is to improve transparency and lines of communication so together we can better serve Oregon's children.

What's next?

The Department will update SB 1515 rules in response to feedback received through the RAC. Updated draft rules will be released to the public in October 2016 and the written comment period will begin. A public hearing will be held in the fall to take feedback in person. The Department will then incorporate the feedback received during the public comment period and at the rulemaking hearing and will adopt permanent rules by December 2016.

Clyde