

EXPANSION OF BACKGROUND CHECK UNIT LONG TERM CARE REGISTRY

SB 104 expands the Background Check Unit (BCU) Long Term Care Registry (LTCR) to include Developmental Disability (DD) and Mental Health (MH) adult foster homes (AFHs), two types of adult foster homes currently excluded by statute. Including DD and MH AFHs would achieve faster background checks for those communities and increase portability for applicants while maintaining client safety, and saving employer, subject individual and program time and funds.

Need for policy change:

This bill would update ORS 443.006 (2) so that DD and MH adult foster homes would be included on the Registry with the following benefits:

- Maintenance of safety for clients while reducing redundant background checks
- Less cost in fingerprinting and other related costs from background checks
- Less hiring time for employers
- Faster service times for clients served by DD and MH adult foster homes

Currently ORS 443.006 (2) excludes Developmental Disability (DD) and Mental Health (MH) adult foster homes (AFHs) from the Long Term Care Registry (LTCR). Consequently neither DD and MH AFH licensees nor prospective employees of DD and MH AFHs can tap the Registry's portability benefits, thereby requiring new background checks for any individuals offered positions in DD and MH AFHs.

An individual on BCU's Long Term Care Registry (LTCR) has already completed a criminal history and abuse check in order to be added to the Registry. Once added, the individual does not have to complete a background check to be hired for another Registry-affected position during a 2-year certification period. Home care workers, personal support workers, residential care, nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and adult foster homes for the aging are all included currently on the Registry.

Facts: Using 2016 totals and averages:

- BCU determined a total of 3,497 DD and MH adult foster home staff and volunteer background checks.
- 20.61% of candidates for Registry-eligible positions were hired immediately due to portability offered by the LTCR.
- If DD and MH AFHs had been included in the LTCR, approximately 721 employers would have benefited from LTCR portability. Equal numbers of subject individuals, and at least one client per subject individual would have likewise benefited from portability.

Contact: *Frank Miles, Unit Manager, DHS/OHA Background Check Unit, 503-507-7851 or frank.t.miles@state.or.us*

