



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director
500 Summer St. NE, E-15
Salem, OR 97301



February 14, 2024

Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1521 (-10), Expanding the Definition of a Child-Caring Agency (CCA)

Dear Chair Gelsler Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to engage over the weekend to develop the -10 amendment in coordination with ODHS. ODHS' top priority is ensuring the safety and stability of children. We have taken seriously concerns raised in recent months about the oversight of contracted providers supporting children experiencing or at risk of temporary lodging and have implemented changes to improve oversight and accountability. These steps include cancelling two of the contracts where serious concerns were raised, centralizing oversight of contracts that were previously managed by local districts and forming an after-action review team to assess the ODHS contracting process and make recommendations to strengthen accountability of service providers.

Impact of -10 Amendment

The -10 amendment minimizes the impact to the provider community to the greatest extent possible while still achieving the intent of the bill to increase regulations on service providers contracted to provide placement safety and crisis stability to children in substitute care at risk of temporary lodging or children experiencing temporary lodging.

ODHS anticipates approximately 5-7 current service providers will be impacted by the -10 amendment's expansion of the definition of a Child-Caring Agency (CCA).

These providers include:

Provider Name	# of Children Served on 2/12/24	Service Specialization	Other Credentials
Kids Individual Development Services (KIDS NW & NINOS NW)	4 – Temporary Lodging 9 - Temporary Lodging Prevention	Intellectual/developmental disabilities	ODDS certificate and endorsement for I/DD services
Greater New Hope Family Services LLC	4 – Temporary Lodging 3 - Temporary Lodging Prevention	Intellectual/developmental disabilities Culturally specific youth and family services, including safety supports, mentoring, parenting classes and one-on-one support.	ODDS certificate and endorsement for I/DD services
HDE Home Care LLC	3– Temporary Lodging	Intellectual/developmental disabilities	ODDS certificate and endorsement for I/DD services
RISE Inc.	0 -Temporary Lodging 0-Temporary Lodging Prevention	Intellectual/developmental disabilities	ODDS certificate and endorsement for I/DD services

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Provider Name	# of Children Served on 2/12/24	Service Specialization	Other Credentials
Family Nurturing Center	0 - Temporary Lodging 0 -Temporary Lodging Prevention	Rural - Jackson and Josephine Counties Child abuse prevention/intervention through parent education, visit, early childhood mental health	Licensed therapists trained in PCIT and CPP. Multiple staff have certifications in CPS. The agency staff are certified in trauma informed care.
Lifewave Community Living Supports LLC	0-Pending Contract	Intellectual/developmental disabilities	ODDS certificate and endorsement for I/DD services
Essential Services LLC	0 – Temporary Lodging 0-Temporary Lodging Prevention	Intellectual/developmental disabilities	ODDS certificate and endorsement for I/DD services

We have updated service providers that were informed of the anticipated impacts of the -6 and -8 amendments that they would no longer be impacted by the -10 amendment.

CCA Licensure

The providers listed above can become licensed CCAs today under the existing licensing type and Oregon Administrative Rules for a “Homeless, Runaway, and Transition Shelter,” but will need several exemptions that ODHS will process quickly and effectively. As the Children's Care Licensing Program (CCLP) learns more about the services provided in this new statutory category, CCLP will decide on the most effective path forward with the two rulemaking options:

- Option 1 – A new set of administrative rules will be drafted for this specific provider type.
- Option 2 - Existing administrative rules will be amended to account for this unique type of service provider.

In the interim, CCLP and Child Welfare will collaborate to provide the necessary technical assistance to ensure the compliance of laws and regulations to ensure these service providers can confidently continue to serve the critical needs of children while they work on becoming a licensed CCA. Providers are encouraged to contact [ODHS Children's Care Licensing Program](#) with any questions or concerns about the CCA licensing application and process.

Evaluation and Report Back

ODHS welcomes the opportunity provide progress updates on the implementation of this bill and the CCA licensure of these providers.

Sincerely,



Fariborz Pakseresht
ODHS Director