



980 9th Street, Suite 1450, Sacramento, California 95814 • 916.446.7961 • www.arcanet.org

April 20, 2023

Amy Whiting, Staff Counsel
California Department of Developmental Services
1215 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Community Crisis Homes and Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes - Proposed Regulations (17 CCR sections 59000, 59001, 59002, 59004, 59005, 59006, 59007, 59008, 59009, 59010, 59011, 59012, 59013, 59022, 59050, 59051, 59052, 59054, 59055, 59056, 59057, 59058, 59059, 59060, 59061, 59062, 59063, 59064, 59065, 59066, 59067, 59068, 59069, 59070, 59071 and 59072)

Dear Ms. Whiting:

California's regional centers are a network of 21 community-based non-profits, represented by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). The regional centers coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of nearly 400,000 Californians with developmental disabilities.

ARCA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the amended regulations proposed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) related to Community Crisis Homes (CCCH) and Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes.

ARCA acknowledges the work of DDS in developing comprehensive regulations that align with the Welfare and Institutions Code sections 4684.80 - 4684.86 and 4698 - 4698.1 and promote placement into the least restrictive settings.

Concerning the proposed regulations for Children's Community Crisis Homes (CCCH) and Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes (EBSH), ARCA recommends the following:

Section 59058: Continuing Education

The proposed language would require Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes to provide five (5) hours of competency-based continuing education in person-centered practices, positive behavioral support, trauma-informed care, and cultural competency. This adds five (5) hours of training, requiring direct care staff to complete at least 25 hours of continuing education annually.

ARCA supports increasing continuing education from 20 to 25 to enhance the services provided to consumers; however, these changes will require an investment of time and money. Service providers should not be expected to absorb the additional financial burden of compensating staff for non-direct service time this change would necessitate.

ARCA recommends the Department provide regional centers with a methodology to offset the increased financial burden this change would have on service providers.

59059.5. Transition/Discharge from the Enhanced Behavioral Support Home.

The proposed language specifies when a written transition plan must be developed for consumers residing in an Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes (EBSH), requiring plans to be generated when a secured perimeter is no longer necessary, services and support provided in EBSH can be reduced, and consumer residing in a group home is nearing adulthood.

To support the transition process and improve the quality of transition efforts, ARCA recommends that Service Code 889 and Form DS6028, which help establish a rate for transition support for Community Crisis Homes (CCH), be expanded to include Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes (EBSH). As is the case with Community Crisis Homes, ARCA recommends that this rate only be used to fund additional services and supports for the consumer during times of transition into or out of the EBSH and that the funding is used for staff training, cross-training or needs specifically related to the consumer's transition.

ARCA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to strengthen the delivery of services for those with intensive behavioral support needs. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Darline Dupree in our office at ddupree@arcanet.org or (916) 446-7961.

Sincerely,
/s/
Amy Westling
Executive Director