



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MARGARET M. O'NEILL BUILDING
410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1
DOVER, DE 19901

VOICE: (302) 739-3620
TTY/TDD: (302) 739-3699
FAX: (302) 739-6704

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2012

TO: Mr. Thomas Murray, Deputy Director
Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection

FROM: Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: 16 DE Reg. 593 [DLTCRP Proposed Pediatric Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Health and Social Services/Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection's (DLTCRP) proposal to revise its pediatric nursing home regulation to address emergency preparedness which was published as 16 DE Reg. 593 in the December 1, 2012 issue of the Register of Regulations. As background, the Division notes that the changes are motivated by circumstances encountered during and after Hurricane Irene in 2011 as well as input from the University of Delaware and a consulting firm. The standards require facilities to have two active, full-time employees who have completed specific FEMA training within a 24-month period. The standards also require annual submission of a facility plan to the Division which conforms to a Division template. SCPD endorses the proposed regulation subject to two (2) amendments.

First, §12.6.3 could be "renumbered" as §12.7. Section 12.6 is a sentence which requires facilities to submit a plan and certificates. Section 12.6.3 is another independent sentence which does not comport with the format and grammar in §12.6.

Second, §12.6 recites that "(e)ach facility shall submit with its annual license" the "all hazards emergency plan" and documentation of FEMA training. Literally, the section is problematic since: 1) facilities do not "submit a license"; and 2) the requirement does not require submission of plans in connection with initial licenses. The relevant licensing statutes are codified at Title 16 Del.C. Ch. 11. Title 16 Del.C. §1104(a) refers to an application for a license or renewal of a license and §1104(e) refers to an "annual renewal application". Therefore, SCPD recommends amending §18.6 to read as follows:

Each facility shall submit with an application for a license and annual renewal of a license:

Finally, SCPD respectfully requests a copy of the “template” mentioned in §8.3. The Council may have additional recommendations to submit based on the content of the template.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our observations or recommendations on the proposed regulation.

cc: Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

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