

STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: January 30, 2015

TO: Ms. Sharon L. Summers, DSS

Policy, Program & Development Unit

FROM: Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson

State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: 18 DE Reg. 514 (DSS Proposed Child Care Subsidy Program Regulation)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Health and Social Services/Division of Social Services' (DSS) proposal to amend its regulations regarding the Child Care Subsidy Program. The proposed regulation was published as 18 DE Reg. 514 in the January 1, 2015 issue of the Register of Regulations. SCPD has the following observations.

Historically, participants have been required to cooperate with the Division of Child Support Enforcement as a condition of eligibility. The Division is proposing to delete all regulations requiring such cooperation. Justification includes the following: 1) elimination of delays in accessing child care services; 2) undermining informal arrangements in which non-custodial parents provide supports; and 3) fear of retribution in domestic violence situations.

SCPD endorses the proposed regulation. The Child Care Subsidy Program is an important support service for individuals enrolled in vocational training or engaging in employment. Council has only one minor recommendation. Section 11004.11 refers to a six month interim report. SCPD did not identify any other references to a 6-month report within Chapter 11000. DSS may wish to assess whether the 6-month report is still current practice. If it is, the Division may wish to revise the following sentence: "Only child care/food benefit cases will receive an interim report." SCPD suspects that the word "receive" should be "require".

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

cc: Ms. Elaine Archangelo

Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens

Developmental Disabilities Council

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