STATE OF MARYLAND

# DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
4201 Patterson Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

Martin O'Malley Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

## State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Administrators

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Residential Child Care Programs

FROM: Kimberly Mayer, Executive Director

RE: New Certification Requirement – Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners

DATE: June 30, 2008

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Pursuant to Senate Bill 783 of the 2008 General Assembly Session, residential child and youth care practitioners (direct care workers) in residential child care programs licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Mental Hygiene Administration, the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Resources must become certified by October 1, 2013.

Senate Bill 783 sets forth the following statutory requirements for certification as a residential child and youth care practitioner:

**AGE REQUIREMENT**

Applicants must be at least 21 years old or at least 18 years old and have at least an associate's or bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

**EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must have:

- A high school diploma or equivalent and have successfully completed an approved training program; or
- A high school diploma or equivalent and at least 2 years experience in the human service field and sponsorship from a certified program administrator; or
- An associate's or bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

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## STANDARDS EXAMINATION

All applicants will be required to pass a Standards Examination.

## CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK REQUIREMENT

All applicants will be required to submit to a state and national criminal history records check through the Criminal Justice Information System initiated on fingerprint cards provided by the Board.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Over the next several months, the Board will plan for the implementation of this new mandate. The Board is targeting the Fall of 2010 for implementation of this new certification requirement. Periodic updates regarding this requirement will be posted on the Board's web page at www.dhmh.state.md.us/crccp.

Program administrators are encouraged to begin discussing this new requirement with their direct care staff now.

cc: Carmen Brown, Executive Director, Office of Licensing and Monitoring, Department of Human Resources
Cheryl Brown, Director for Program Evaluation, Department of Juvenile Services
William Dorrill, Deputy Director for Community and Residential Programs, Office of Health Care Quality, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Shelley Tinney, Director, Community Resource Development, Governor's Office for Children
BRCCPA Board Members

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