



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 – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals

August 1, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Rosemary King Johnston, Executive Director
The Governor's Office for Children
301 W. Preston St, Suite 1502
Baltimore, MD 21201

RE: Senate Bill 344/House Bill 387 Summer Study Workgroup

Dear Ms. Johnston:

The State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals ("State Board") has had the opportunity to review the Provider Focus Team report provided by Shelley Tinney of Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth. The report recommends a tiered certification structure for child care workers. The State Board is submitting this letter in reference to that recommendation.

The State Board supports the three-tiered certification structure for child care workers proposed by the Provider Focus Team Report. This approach is in line with the State Board's recommendation calling for a simplification of minimum requirements for certification in the recently issued report *Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner Certification Program: Recommendations for Modifications to Minimum Standards*.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at mayerk@dhmh.state.md.us or 410-764-5911.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mayer
Executive Director

cc: Shelley Tinney, MARFY
Chron File