

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



October 26, 2007

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO: I-61-07

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS
ALL COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENTS
ALL COUNTY PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
ALL COMMUNITY TREATMENT PROVIDERS
ALL REGIONAL CENTER GROUP HOMES

**REASON FOR THIS
TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
 Federal Law or Regulation
Change
 Court Order
 Clarification Requested by
One or More Counties
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: ONLINE CHANGE REPORTS FOR GROUP HOME RATE INFORMATION

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide counties with information regarding online access to the Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch (FCARB) change reports for group home rate information.

Foster Care Rates Letter (FCRL) 00-01, dated August 18, 2000, notified county placing agencies of the availability of online access to group home and foster family agency rate information. This information was made available online to ensure that up-to-date rate information would be continually available to any interested parties. FCRL 00-01 also notified agencies that copies of ongoing rate letters would no longer be forwarded to county placing agencies.

In an ongoing effort to provide group home program rate information as expeditiously as possible to county placing agencies to avoid payment errors, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has developed two change reports to provide a quick summary of group home program rate terminations and rate reductions. These reports provide a summary of group home rate actions taken for the previous three months, the current month, and rate actions taking place the first of the following month, in a simple one-page format. The change reports will be updated bimonthly as are other rates listings and will use the same format which is alphabetical by program name, the rate action, and the effective date. Each month the oldest month will be dropped from the list; therefore, it is suggested that counties print the list if historical information is needed.

These change reports were designed to quickly alert counties of rate actions that have been taken by the FCARB which may affect the rate paid to a group home. However, counties should not rely exclusively on these reports to establish a rate. County placing agencies are reminded that group home providers who have a rate reduction or termination as a result of a State audit may sometimes appeal that rate action or apply to have that rate increased. As such, it is suggested that counties access these change reports first to determine if a specific group home program rate has been terminated or reduced. County placing agencies should use both the change reports and the cumulative rates listing to determine the actual rate for the provider during a specific period of time.

The change reports and rates listings are on the CDSS' website at:

http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/FosterCare_1447.htm#Rates

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Please contact FCARB, at (916) 651-9155, if you have any questions regarding this letter or the change reports for group home program rates.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

MARY L. AULT
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA