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Dear Provider:

As a result of recent legal issues raised by IARCCA the Indiana Department of Child Services has agreed to cancel its current request-for-proposal (RFP) for determining contracts with residential service providers. The sole intent and focus of this RFP was well founded—to seek out those providers in the state with the best residential programs, services and outcomes, to ensure abused and neglected children are referred to the highest-quality facilities.

The RFP process is used broadly across government agencies, non-profit organizations and the business sector. However, we understand that use of the RFP process concerned some residential providers here in Indiana. We do not want any process, no matter how well-intended or common it may be, to take focus away from our true goal: the highest quality of care for those children in residential placement, nor do we want any process used to achieve this goal to create an adversarial relationship with our providers on the whole.

We are still committed to ensuring children are placed in residential facilities that can prove positive outcomes for those they serve. Over the next few months, we will be exploring a range of options that will enable placing agencies to use provider level outcome data to assist in making placement decisions. Through the RFP we have already received some of that data, and we thank all who submitted proposals as a part of that process.

Some of the options we are exploring include a score-card type rating system for residential providers based on the outcome data provided. But this is one of a number of possible options. We will reach out to providers to get further input in determining outcome data and how that data can be utilized to provide Indiana's abused and neglected children the best service possible. We hope you will actively participate and partner with DCS in that process.



Protecting our children, families and future

We anticipate having an update for you in early fall regarding how outcomes data will be used to assist in placement decisions. Thank you, again, for your continued support in protecting abused and neglected children—and for your continued participation in providing the best services for the benefit of these children, their families, and the people of Indiana.

Sincerely,



John Ryan
Chief of Staff

Indiana Department of Child Services