

TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Policy

Section 8.13

SUPPORTED LIVING PROVIDER SELECTION SYSTEM, ADVISORY COUNCIL, AND GRIEVANCE POLICIES

- A. A County Board of Developmental Disabilities shall establish an advisory council composed of Board members or employees of the Board, providers, individuals receiving supported living, and advocates for individuals receiving supported living to provide on-going communication among all persons concerned with supported living.
- B. The Board shall develop procedures for the resolution of grievances between the Board and providers or between the Board and an entity with which it has a shared funding agreement.
- C. The Board shall develop and implement a provider selection system. Each system shall enable an individual to choose to continue receiving supported living from the same providers, to select additional providers, or to choose alternative providers. Annually, the Board shall review its provider selection system to determine whether it has been implemented in a manner that allows individuals fair and equitable access to providers. In developing a provider selection system, the county Board shall create a pool of providers for individuals to use in choosing their providers of supported living. The pool shall be created by placing in the pool all providers on record with the Board or by placing in the pool all providers approved by the Board through soliciting requests for proposals for supported living contracts. In either case, only providers that are certified by the department of mental retardation and developmental disabilities and in compliance with the quality assurance standards established in rules adopted by the department may be placed in the pool.

If the Board places all providers on record in the pool, the Board shall review the pool at least annually to determine whether each provider has continued interest in being a provider and has maintained its certification by the department. At any time, an interested and certified provider may make a request to the Board that it be added to the pool, and the Board shall add the provider to the pool not later than seven days after receiving the request.

If the Board solicits requests for proposals for inclusion of providers in the pool, the Board shall develop standards for selecting the providers to be included. Requests for proposals shall be solicited at least annually. When requests are solicited, the Board shall cause legal notices to be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation within the county. The Board's formal request for proposals shall include a description of any applicable contract terms, the standards that are used to select providers for inclusion in the pool, and the process the Board uses to resolve disputes arising from the selection

process. The Board shall accept requests from any entity interested in being a provider of supported living for individuals served by the Board. Requests shall be approved or denied according to the standards developed by the Board. Providers that previously have been placed in the pool are not required to resubmit a request for proposal to be included in the pool, unless the Board's standards have been changed.

In assisting an individual in choosing a provider, the county Board shall provide the individual with uniform and consistent information pertaining to each provider in the pool, including the provider evaluations conducted under section 5126.431 of the Revised Code on and after July 1, 1995. An individual may choose to receive supported living from a provider that is not included in the pool, if the provider is certified by the department of mental retardation and developmental disabilities and in compliance with the quality assurance standards established in rules adopted by the department.

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