

**SOI MEETING
BROOKDALE
10/27/09**

- Q. How many homes are we looking at developing?
- R. At the present time we are looking at developing 3-5 new family homes. Since we haven't developed any new homes for several years, we are looking to start out gradually and possibly develop more homes in the future, if necessary.
- Q. Are there particular (geographical) areas we're looking for at this time?
- R. Location is based on a case by case basis. Residents need access to employment or day programs if it is a part of their overall daily plan. Access to a bus line is helpful if individuals are more independent. We will consider all geographic locations for possible licensure.
- Q. What are the qualifications for providing AFC in general and for certain populations?
- R. There are many qualifications that may be helpful. Professional experience (nursing background, group-home work, PCA work, etc.) is helpful but not mandatory. We look for providers that are flexible, resilient, and team players. Likewise, we look for individuals who are able to communicate well with the resident's team. Being a good decision maker and knowing when to ask for help is important.
- Q. What do family providers do when they go on vacations?
- R. Some families take individuals with them on vacation. Likewise, some residents may spend time with their families during holidays or provider vacations. Hennepin County does have a respite program which offers up to 30 days of respite per calendar year. Any licensed family provider **must** have at least one substitute caregiver who has been designated to be the backup for the provider. That person must pass the background study before they can work for the provider. It is up to the provider to find their own substitute caregiver. The substitute caregiver must provide the cares in the provider's home, since the home is licensed.
- Q. Can the provider have a Class F license (Assisted Living) and AFC license?
- R. Although this is a possibility, we're not certain how this would be beneficial to either the provider or resident. We would prefer to utilize just the AFC license.
- Q. Can you do care in your own home and then branch out and purchase additional homes?
- R. No, this can not be done. This would then be considered corporate AFC. DHS has a moratorium on any new corporate developments until 7/1/2011. There will be a new residential license established by that time. We are uncertain about the specifics of this new license at the present time.

- Q. Does the County have respite employees that are available to contract with?
- R. No, any family provider must find, hire, train, etc. their own substitute caregiver(s). The County is not responsible for providing substitute caregivers or respite providers.
- Q. Do providers have to pay for fire inspections and backgrounds studies?
- R. The Fire Marshall may charge up to a maximum of \$50 per inspection. A few localities may not charge for inspections, but most do. Background studies are completed at the State level by DHS. Each individual that is a permanent resident of the household and is 13 years of age or older, must complete a background study. The cost is \$20 per study and only needs to be completed once.
- Q. When will you know if your application is accepted for processing/licensing?
- R. All proposal submitted will be notified of their status (accepted or not accepted). The proposals will be reviewed from November 20 to December 18, 2009. A decision will be made prior to the Holidays.
- Q. What is/are the funding streams for payment?
- R. The most basic funding stream is straight GRH payment. The minimum amount that any provider would receive would be \$846 per month, of which \$200 must be allocated for food. Monthly per diems can go up from there depending upon the resident's specific needs. They could have GRH plus extra money for difficulty of care (DOC), or may be on waived services. If a resident is on a waiver, their monthly allocation is based on his/her specific need areas. Funding is very individualized at this time and is managed through the placing Social Worker. There may be the possibility of private pay situations, at times. If there is a private pay resident, the details are worked out between the resident's family/representative and the provider. The County does not become involve in setting rates for private pay residents.
- Q. Can we license providers for respite only?
- R. Not at this time. The demand isn't high enough to maintain respite providers in AFC. Likewise it is extremely difficult from a billing aspect.
- Q. What do we look for in a home (physical structure)?
- R. First and foremost the home must pass the fire inspection/safety requirements by the Fire Marshall. We do look for homes that are easily accessible for mobility issues. If they have the capacity to take wheelchairs, that is a plus. Overall layout may be considered.
- Q. Are there any insurance requirements?
- R. Providers must have homeowners insurance. Anytime a provider is licensed, they are covered under an umbrella policy at the State, for foster care providers. This is a liability policy that covers the provider should the resident(s) cause damage to another's property, or harm to an individual. It protects the provider from being sued due to the behavior of a resident. The policy does not cover the provider or

the provider's licensed home. Some providers have chosen to carry additional insurance. Please direct further questions to your insurance carrier or agent.

Q. Are two people able to be licensed together?

R. Yes. A licensed home may have two applicants.

Q. If you have a daycare license, can you also do AFC?

R. No. DHS prefers to not mix populations or provide dual licenses. This is especially true with vulnerable adults in young children. It becomes a big liability for the provider and State.

Q. If a resident must move out, what are the expected timelines?

R. If a resident is placing the provider or others at risk of harm, then it is expected that they move ASAP. Otherwise, providers should request the move via the resident's social worker and give at least 30 days notice. This may be a time where the expectation is to remain tolerant and patient. It may take a period of time to obtain another placement for the resident.

Q. Are there funds for recreational activities?

R. On an occasional basis, there may be tickets available to sporting events through Hennepin County. However, the individuals do get personal needs money on a monthly basis, which may be used for activities.

Q. Are there forums for providers to network? A provider support group?

R. At the present time, There had been something set up previously such as a provider support group and training session. MN AFC Association offers training sessions. Sometimes providers may be introduced to each other for mentoring and support.

Email Questions

Q. If we have a huge closet in the bedroom we want to use for the client, can we still store our family "overflow stuff" in half of the closet or does the client need the use of the whole thing? We would store books and extra linens, etc. in it.

R. Per AFC licensing Rule 203, you may not store other "stuff" in the closet. The rule reads: ***(3)A resident's personal possessions and items for the resident's own use are the only items permitted to be stored in a resident's bedroom.***