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State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

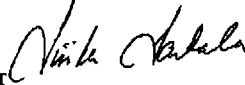
DIVISION OF LONG TERM CARE

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June, 2008

To: Family Care and Family Care Partnership Managed Care Organizations
Family Care and Family Care Partnership Expansion Counties

From: Sinikka Santala, Administrator 

Subject: Temporary Arrangement for the Certification of Adult Family Homes in Family Care Counties

County long-term support agencies have traditionally recruited and certified adult family homes for the use of their own clients. Counties in the areas where managed long-term care expansion is occurring no longer have a long-term care client base and are interested in reducing or eliminating their role in certification of adult family homes. Chapter 50.032 of the Wisconsin Statutes specifies that certification of adult family homes is a responsibility of either county agencies or the Department of Health and Family Services. Administrative rules related to certified adult family homes define a certifying agency as:

“... a county agency that elects to certify adult family homes located in the county or an agent of a county agency who does not also place residents in any type of residential placement or facility or provide placement assistance services and who is authorized by a county agency to certify adult family homes located in the county, or the department in a county where no county agency has elected to certify adult family homes or to designate an agent to certify adult family homes.”

[HFS 82.01 (3)]

The Department is in the process of examining statutory requirements for counties in relation to Family Care expansion. In the meantime, as a practical solution, counties where Family Care is operating are encouraged to delegate the certification of adult family homes for Family Care enrollees to managed care organizations using the memorandum of understanding between the county and the managed care organization. The county and the Department will be responsible for monitoring managed care organizations to ensure that in certifying adult family homes they use appropriate standards to assure the best interests of residents and potential residents are protected.

We hope that this temporary approach will assist in addressing this complex situation.

Cc: Wisconsin Association of Adult Home Coordinators
Area Administration Team