

Kroh, Karen

# 3160

# 14-540- (41)

**From:** Mochon, Julie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 12:46 PM  
**To:** Kroh, Karen  
**Subject:** FW: proposed changes to 6100.143

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**From:** Cassandra Pilarski [mailto:CassandraPilarski@barberinstitute.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 12:34 PM  
**To:** Mochon, Julie  
**Subject:** proposed changes to 6100.143

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2016 DEC 16 PM 1:11

Good afternoon Julie,

I am writing you regarding the proposed changes to 6100.143 (Annual Training). Listed below are some of my thoughts and concerns on how this may impact the Agency With Choice model.

If the Service Support Worker does not complete the required training they will be unable to work. Majority of the staff have other jobs and obligations. If the Service Support Worker is unable to complete the training outside their scheduled time with the client, they will most likely end up having to complete their training during their scheduled shift. Our families rely on the staff to be there, and routine and consistency are very important. Some families only have one Service Support Worker and if they are unable to work, the client is directly affected. Additionally, requiring 24 hours of training does not necessarily ensure the training will be tailored to the needs of the individual. In the bulletin it states "the orientation and training must be customizable to individual or surrogate needs". The training should outline and emphasize the rights of the individual, which may not add up to 24 hours of training per year.

If the unit rate increases, those clients who have a \$30,000.00 budget restraint will have their total hours per year reduced. I have sat in meetings with families receiving PFDS waiver funds, and we have had to make some very hard decisions and reduced services because of their budget. I would not want to have to tell those families again we need to reduce and their staff will not be able to work if the training requirement is not met.

One of the benefits of being enrolled in Agency With Choice is the flexibility and control over services. I am concerned that if we continue to create restrictions and barriers for individuals and families, it will result in a decrease in enrollment. I have personally witnessed how this program can greatly improve one's quality of life, community involvement and their independence in aspects of daily living. It would be upsetting to see this have a negative effect on those we serve.

Thank you for your attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely

Cassandra Pilarski/AWC Family Liaison