

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legislature, Statutory:

1. Establish additional AFH specialty designations for homes serving residents with skilled nursing needs or traumatic brain injury.
2. Require all AFHs to issue a standardized disclosure form regarding care capacities and specialties for prospective residents, family, and designated decision makers.
3. Direct DSHS to place conditions on a home's license, such as to hire a consultant or obtain more training, in conjunction with a stop placement of admissions when the AFH has violations that are repeated, uncorrected, pervasive, or potentially life-threatening.
4. Allow DSHS to refrain from citing a minor violation by an AFH, so long as it is corrected during an inspection, is not a repeat violation, and does not pose a significant risk.

DSHS, Regulatory:

5. In conjunction with stakeholders, expand and improve specialty training course requirements for AFHs serving residents with dementia, mental health, or developmental disability related needs, and add additional specialty trainings not addressed by Initiative 1163.
6. Require AFH owners to meet with, review the assessment of, and develop a preliminary care plan for potential residents prior to their admission to the home.
7. Clarify the rules concerning the inspection of the homes of multiple-facility owners when serious or repeat deficiencies are found in one of their AFHs.

DSHS, Internal Actions:

8. Require AFH owners to successfully complete the revised 48 hour administrator training program when substandard business practices have been demonstrated.
9. Comply more closely with the RCW 70.128.160 requirement to maintain a stop placement until the AFH has corrected the violations that caused the stop placement and shown it can maintain the corrections.
10. Create an accessible, consumer-friendly website for family members and residents to use when making informed decisions about care in an AFH or other long-term care (LTC) facility.
11. Work with the Office of Administrative Hearings to determine the extent of delays in holding fair hearings, particularly for AFHs that have received a license revocation; work to ensure timely hearings and monitor residents' well-being during such delays; and request additional resources if necessary.
12. Revise the DSHS/LTCOP information poster in AFHs and other LTC facilities to include specific language prohibiting retaliation.
13. Provide more written information on the resolution of unsubstantiated allegations as part of the complaint investigative report, in order to better document the investigation.