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To: Community Based Residential Facilities CBRF 14

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Construction Requirements for New ‘Class-C’ CBRF Structures

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on the Department’s position regarding the physical plant requirements for new community-based residential facility (CBRF) licensure, as these requirements relate to the application of the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code (WCBC). CBRFs are licensed according to Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 83. Commercial structures are designed to the requirements in the WCBC.

The WCBC adopts and modifies the International Building Code (IBC). Chapter 3 of the IBC controls the classification of commercial buildings in relation to use and occupancy. Depending on the number of people being cared for, and the extent of their physical condition, CBRFs will typically be classified I-2, I-1, R-3 or R-4. In addition, a small CBRF serving 5 to 8 persons can be constructed to the Uniform Dwelling Code standards in Wis. Admin. Code chs. Comm 20 to 25.

According to Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 83.04(2)(d)(e) & (f),

(d) *Class C ambulatory (CA)*. A class C ambulatory CBRF serves only residents who are ambulatory but one or more of whom are not mentally capable of responding to a fire alarm by exiting the CBRF without any help or verbal or physical prompting.

(e) *Class C semi-ambulatory (CS)*. A class C semi-ambulatory CBRF serves only residents who are ambulatory or semi-ambulatory, but one or more of whom are not physically or mentally capable of responding to a fire alarm by exiting the CBRF without help or verbal or physical prompting.

(f) *Class C non-ambulatory (CNA)*. A class C non-ambulatory CBRF serves residents who are ambulatory, semi-ambulatory or non-ambulatory, but one or more of whom are not physically or mentally capable of responding to a fire alarm by exiting the CBRF without help or verbal or physical prompting.

IBC Group I-2 occupancies serve buildings and structures with persons who are not capable of self-preservation.

Position: Class-C CBRFs of nine or more beds, i.e., commercial size, seeking licensure in a new structure must be approved as an **IBC Group I-2**.

Please direct questions about the content of this memo to David Soens at (608) 266-9675.