STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Ashley Deckert • Director, Department of Children, Youth and Families

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Children's Behavioral Healthcare Organizations
214-RICR-40-00-8

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is issuing this advance notice of proposed rulemaking to request public comment on draft regulations for Children's Behavioral Healthcare Organizations, 214-RICR-40-00-8.

The draft regulations would establish licensing and operational standards for Children's Behavioral Healthcare Organizations (CBHOs) providing community-based and home-based behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability services for children. The standards are intended to protect children's well-being and ensure that services meet each child's needs in the least restrictive appropriate setting. These regulations would not cover substance use treatment, inpatient services, or services licensed through other regulations.

The draft includes requirements for organizational licensure, governance, staffing, training, quality improvement, children's rights, and safety. It also addresses screening, assessment, care planning, service coordination, and discharge planning, with additional requirements for specific services and program types.

DCYF will consider the comments received as it revises the draft before proceeding with formal proposed rulemaking.

Written comments may be submitted during the public comment period through the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website Rhode Island Code of Regulations or directly to:

Sarah St. Jacques
Director of Policy and Regulation
Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
sarah.stjacques@dcyf.ri.gov

The public comment period will begin on **November 18, 2026**, and remain open through **December 18, 2026**.

DCYF welcomes comments from children, youth, families, providers, advocates, other state agencies, managed care organizations, and community partners, and thanks all participants for their time and input.