RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Title of Rule: Children's Behavioral Healthcare Organizations

Rule Identifier: 214-RICR-40-00-8

Rulemaking Action: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: November 18, 2026

End of Public Comment: December 18, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-72-5

Advance Notice Details:

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Department of Children, Youth & Families
Ashley Deckert • Director, Department of Children, Youth and Families

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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 13, 2026, and remain open through December 14, 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.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until December 18, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Sarah St Jacques
Department of Children, Youth, and Families
101 Friendship Street
101 Friendship Street
Providence, RI 02903
sarah.stjacques@dcyf.ri.gov