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Alameda County
Social Services
Agency

Department of Adult and Aging Services
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Stewart Smith
Assistant Agency Director

Yolanda Baldovinos, Agency Director

October 21, 2009

Eva L. Lopez, Deputy Director
Adult Programs Division
California State Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-17-12
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Lopez:

Alameda County's In Home Supportive Services Program will be unable to comply with the November 1, 2009 deadline for the implementation of ABX4 19:

Sec 3 - New Provider Orientation,
Sec 27 - Provider Enrollment and,
Sec 11 - New Provider Background Check.

ORI Code: Alameda County has applied for and obtained authorization to receive finger print findings from the Department of Justice, however, it will be another 5 weeks before we are given the ORI code required to process fingerprints. Additionally, staff viewing these fingerprints is required to undergo CORI training. We anticipate beginning to fingerprint in December, 2009 with an outside vendor, and having the ability to implement fully in January, 2010.

Staffing: In order to process provider enrollments it is necessary for the department to hire additional staff. The county hiring process requires a background check and physical exam. We will be unable to begin hiring before November 1, 2009, and anticipate full staffing by December 1, 2009.

Facilities: In order to process provider enrollments it is necessary for the department to secure facilities as we will be required to complete at least 120 orientations per day to complete provider orientations for our 18,000 chore providers. We have identified and secured space and the property owners are moving quickly to prepare it for occupancy. We will have access to the new space on November 1, 2009 and can then begin moving equipment and supplies into the location.

Instructions from DSS: Instructions on the various Notices and letters have been incomplete. For example, guidelines for termination of workers for "certain misdemeanors" are unclear. Additionally, we have no clear instruction on when a worker will be terminated if we discover, through fingerprinting, that they are ineligible prior to the June 30, 2010 deadline for processing enrollments. Without clarity on these issues, the county is at substantial risk of appeals and lawsuits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Stewart Smith
Assistant Agency Director
Adult & Aging Services

c: Frank Mecca, Executive Director
CWDA / 925 L Street, Suite 350, Sacramento, CA 95814