STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE ● P.O. Box 40975 ● Olympia WA 98504-0975

March 19, 2026

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Aanchal Dhar, Group Care Program Manager

SUBJECT: CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT *(RCW 34.05.325)*

For rules proposed under notice filed as WSR 25-23-088 on November 18, 2025:

Title of rule and other identifying information: The DCYF Licensing Division (LD) is adding the following new sections to chapter 110-145 WAC Licensing Requirements for Group Care Facilities (GCFs):

110-145-2310	Definitions.
110-145-2360	Licensing application requirements.
110-145-2420	Certificates, zoning, and code regulations.
110-145-2460	Location tracking and electronic monitoring of children and youth.
110-145-2510	Bedrooms and sleeping areas.
110-145-2600	Fire safety.
110-145-2610	Smoke detectors.
110-145-2660	Duties and qualifications for executive directors or administrators in GCFs.
110-145-2680	Duties and qualifications for care coordinators in GCFs.
110-145-2690	Duties and qualifications of direct care staff and direct care volunteers in GCFs.
110-145-2770	First-aid and CPR training.
110-145-2780	Reporting incidents.
110-145-2950	Immunization requirements for children and youth.
110-145-2970	Accepting, storing, and disposing of medication.
110-145-2980	Medication administration and documentation.
110-145-3030	Maintaining connections with family and supportive individuals.

REASON FOR ADOPTION: LD is amending rules regarding the licensing standards for GCFs. LD engaged in negotiated rule making (NRM) for this rule project. This amended Chapter 110-145 WAC allows the department to be more developmentally appropriate and flexible to meet the individual children's and youth's needs. LD believes these changes will empower GCFs to provide high quality care that supports the health, safety, and well-being of the children and youth they serve.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES MADE SINCE THE RULE WAS PROPOSED: No substantiative changes.

cc: DCYF Rules Coordinator

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED	THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED ALL THE COMMENTS. THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS, OR THE REASONS NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN, FOLLOW.
110-145-2310 Definitions. Commenter requested the definition of licensed health care providers be updated to include mental health professionals in the state of Washington as defined in RCW 71.05.020 (40)(a)(b)(c)(d) or that WAC 110-145-2460 (2)(c) be expanded to include mental health counselor professionals	No Action taken. The request is outside of a licensed health care provider's scope of practice for group care.
110-145-3030 Maintaining connections with family and supportive individuals. The department received comments that noted there were no requirements related to: • Facilitating connections to immediate, extended, and chosen family members as outlined in their case plans.	Action taken. The department revised WAC 110-145-3030 to: • Clarify that GCFs will support connections by facilitating authorized contacts with family or supportive individuals. • Remove the requirement for licensees to obtain an approved list. Instead, licensees will authorize contacts by following instructions and guidance from the child's or youth's representatives.
• Expectations to provide education, training, and coaching to families of origin and other potential long-term or permanent placements on how best to support the child.	No Action taken in the WAC language. The department will be addressing these areas through contracts.
• Expectations to engage in service or discharge planning.	No action taken in the WAC language. The department will be addressing these areas through contracts.