

To: All Current and Potential Residential Services Providers for DSS

From: Isabel Blanco, Deputy Director, SCDSS

Isabel Blanco by Michel Miller

Re: Solicitation #5400004668 and our Current Contract

Date: August 21, 2012

I want to notify you that today we have asked MMO to cancel the above-referenced solicitation. We will extend our current contract for the balance of the original second year, through June 30, 2013.

Our agency has carefully considered issues involving residential services for foster children, especially over this past 1.5 years, and has received input from a wide range of providers in numerous settings over that time. Over the past couple of months, our agency made some very careful decisions about assuring quality services for children in foster care and developed a scope of work for this solicitation that incorporated our shared objectives. We also worked hard to be sure we could purchase those services at prices that are fair and cost-effective.

In working with MMO to issue its solicitation, we expressly requested that a pre-bid conference opportunity be scheduled for all interested prospective bidders. It was our intention to receive information from attendees as a group and to answer specific questions about the scope of work requirements.

In the pre-bid meeting yesterday, we learned more about your concerns as a group and found the conversation encouraging. We also learned that providers support objectives expressed in the solicitation and continuous improvement outcomes for children and families.

After the meeting yesterday, our agency thoughtfully considered providers' ideas and have evaluated our options for going forward.

We have determined that it is in our joint best interest to extend our current contract for the balance of the original second year, through June 30, 2013, with several items discussed yesterday included in change order(s). We believe strongly that we are on a progressive path of continually enhancing our joint working relationship.

Toward that end, I would like to meet with you all again on **Wednesday, August 29, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in the DHEC Peoples Auditorium**. This meeting will involve the following: (1) discussion of planned quarterly provider-DSS contract communications meetings, to include all providers and DSS monitoring, licensing, casework, and leadership staff; (2) discussion of a few specific changes to our current contract that deal with safety, life-skills, and additional cost reporting.

I look forward to seeing you again as a group next Wednesday.