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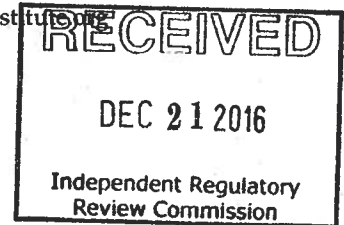
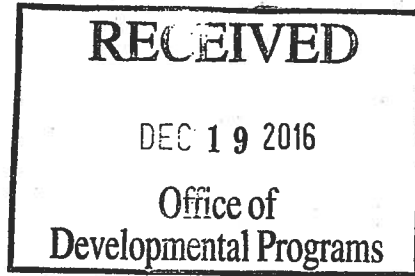
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Dear Julie,

I am of the opinion that the implementation of 24 hours of mandatory training for staff would affect the individuals we serve directly in a negative fashion. I am in no way against comprehensive, effective training methods but in this case believe that they will directly take away from the valuable services our individuals utilize for continued growth in society. A rise in mandatory training hours for staff through Agency Choice Programs will not only take away hours that individuals could be working towards goals, but also be taking away the 'choice' facet of the Agency with Choice program. I am relatively new to AWC but have come to appreciate the positive aspects that come with allowing our families and our individuals themselves to have control over their own services. The Agency with Choice program allows this in spades. This allows for each family to take part in what they believe staff must be versed in for their particular family member receiving services. These individualized plans for training that our families have control over directly attack the issues that a specific individual may have. This training, to go along with our already proven effective mandatory training not only allows for the most personalized preparation for our individuals but also the most cost effective. We aim as an agency to provide service at the utmost quality but also at a quantity that allows for personal societal growth within each and every one of the individuals that we serve. Putting a mandatory increase on training hours will take away from the uniqueness of this program that allows it to effectively adapt to each individual's personal needs while hindering the amount of service that can be afforded. Thank you for your consideration on this most important matter and I have the utmost confidence that you will make the decision that best serves the population that we so deeply care about.

Respectively,
Alex Kindle
Barber National Institute
Agency with Choice

