



*Last Updated: 09/29/23*

## **RESPONSE TO INTERIM COMMITTEE REQUESTS**

**FOR: Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee (CFHHS)**

**REQUESTED INFORMATION:** Issues with background checks in SLTC services

### **RESPONSE:**

- Background checks are not required by state law for the hiring of direct care workers for Community First Choice, Personal Assistance Services and the Big Sky waiver. The decision to check backgrounds is made by the provider agency.
- Individuals who self-manage their services or a personal representative managing on behalf of an individual make the decision to check the background of the individuals that they hire.
- The type of background check, local or FBI, varies depending upon the agency. Additionally, some agencies require drug screening. The cost of these checks is absorbed by the agency, or sometimes the applicant.
- An issue arises when a direct care worker does not pass a background or drug screen. Often the individual and member change to an agency where background checks are not required. While this is the choice of the member, there has been theft, abuse and/or neglect in these situations.
- Other issues in the past have included delays in background check processing, resulting in delays in service delivery.

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**REVIEWED BY: Mike Randol, Executive Director, Medicaid and Health Services**

**COORDINATION: N/A**