April 6, 2018

ALTSA: ICF/IID #2018-001
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) OMBUDS

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent and/or Administrator:

We are pleased to announce the Office of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Ombuds.

In 2016, the legislature passed SB 6564 creating the Office of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Ombuds. Advocates worked for more than 20 years for a DD Ombuds. Opportunity arose during the legislative session because of a tragedy, ""Laura's Law".

In 2017, the DD Ombuds was created as a private, independent office to investigate, monitor, review, and report on services provided to persons with developmental disabilities. The DD Ombuds operates as a separate program of Disability Rights Washington through a contract with Department of Commerce.

The DD Ombuds' purpose is to ensure safe, quality services and improve the lives of those with developmental disabilities in Washington state. The DD Ombuds provides resident directed complaint resolution at the lowest possible level. The DD Ombuds will visit and review state licensed facilities and residences where persons with developmental disabilities reside. These visits may occur regularly and maybe announced. The DD Ombuds may speak privately with persons with developmental disabilities.

The DD Ombuds may review the practices and procedures of facilities and residences that serve people with developmental disabilities. The DD Ombuds may, upon request, inspect or copy the policies and procedures of state-operated, licensed or contracted programs.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with the DD Ombuds. If you have any questions about their organization, please contact Betty Schwieterman at (833) 727-8900 extension 209. You can also visit their website: Office of the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Ombuds.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"