

# BBS MEMO

Ohio Board of Building Standards

2323 West Fifth Ave., Box 825, Columbus, Ohio 43216

October 14, 1993

**CHILD DAY-CARE** - Ohio funding for Head Start programs will be significantly increased for the next fiscal year. This means that in addition to the normal number of child care facilities that open and relocate on a yearly basis, an estimated 40,000 additional children are expected to be served in Ohio Head Start Programs.

Governor Voinovich directed state agencies involved in regulating childcare to reduce the complexity of licensure. In response to the governor's request, the board, in cooperation with OBOA and the Fire Marshal's Office, will be scheduling several seminars specifically related to OBBC requirements for child care centers and the licensure procedures involved in facility approvals.

The accredited seminars will be free for certified code enforcement personnel and will be presented in each of the regional building official association areas (**The first seminar will be held in central Ohio, 11/15-16/93 at the Fire Academy.** To register, contact Bob Schutz 614/ 885-5380).

**ADULT CARE FACILITIES** - After a year's effort and input from Cleveland's building department, OBOA, the BBS, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Fire Marshal's Office and the Adult Care Advisory Council, the part of the law related to building and fire safety requirements for adult group homes was changed (HB152). By November 15, 1994, each adult group home must provide to ODH, a valid Certificate of Use and Occupancy (C of U&O) issued by a building official to receive initial or renewal licensure.

For existing facilities, this means that the owner/provider will request a C of U&O in writing pursuant to 4101:2-1-27(D) OAC. To help the building official determine minimal "safe" conditions in this vulnerable type of occupancy, the board staff worked several months with representatives of OBOA, the Fire Marshal's Office, ODH and fire service in developing a guideline/checklist that would be used to deal with

existing facilities.

Another effect of the law change is that Adult Group Homes will no longer be required to be placed in the R-2 Use Group category. The use group will be determined by how the facility is intended to be used (depending on the facility's operation, it could be R-2, I-1 or I-2).

Again, a series of accredited seminars will be provided for certified code enforcement personnel (both building and fire). **These seminars will be held statewide January through April, 1994 and free for certified personnel.** Subsequently, training sessions on developing effective evacuation plans for Adult Care Facilities will be required for all administrators of these facilities. By July, 1994, owners of these existing facilities should begin to apply for building approval at the local level. By that date, we should all be informed about the new rules, and the impact on the local building departments will, hopefully, be minimized.

(Be advised: several OBBC changes related to this issue are proposed for adoption. See Public Hearing Draft Amendments Group XL, scheduled for Public Hearing 11/05/93.)

It should also be noted that a new category of licensed adult care was created in this same bill: Assisted Living. Board staff has met with ODH and the Ohio Department of Aging regarding how this new category should be regulated by the OBBC. The law has indicated that a C of U&O will be required for licensure but the rules have not yet been developed. Additional information will be provided when it is available.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Work on updating the OBBC to the '93 edition of BOCA's building, mechanical and fire codes will continue through the winter. We expect to complete this effort as well as revisions to Article I (alterations, additions and existing uses) in time for the spring public hearing.