

# Monitoring in South Carolina's QRIS CCPRC Meeting December 2015

Leigh Bolick, Director  
Division of Early Care and Education  
South Carolina Department of Social Services

# Where Have We Been?

- ▶ In 1992, South Carolina introduced the first Tiered Reimbursement subsidy system.
- ▶ There were three tiers in the system.
- ▶ It allowed all legally operating providers to participate:
  - ▶ Licensed Centers
  - ▶ Licensed Family and Group Homes
  - ▶ Registered Family Homes
  - ▶ Exempt Facilities (less than 4 hours per day)
  - ▶ Family Friend and Neighbor Care

# Where Have We Been?

- ▶ Mandatory standards were developed for each tier, based on licensing regulations.
- ▶ Annual on-site assessments were implemented for all providers at top two levels.
- ▶ Higher payment rates were paid in combination with quality bonuses.
- ▶ In 2007, program transitioned to a QRIS - ABC Quality.
- ▶ Re-named tiers to levels A+, A, B+, B, and C.

# Changing Political Environment

- ▶ Quality staff began monitoring Level C exempt providers, including family home providers.
- ▶ Licensing was also visiting licensed providers twice a year.
- ▶ Licensing took on the responsibility of health and safety monitoring for Level C licensed providers; quality staff no longer visited these providers.
- ▶ In 2014, legislation eliminated one licensing visit - only one a year is currently allowed.
- ▶ In 2014, legislation gave licensing the authority to visit registered family providers (previously allowed only upon complaint).

# Where Are We Now?

- ▶ Phasing in Licensing visits for Registered Family providers.
- ▶ Reinstating annual quality monitoring visits for Level C licensed providers.
- ▶ Strengthening monitoring of lowest level providers with new standardized health and safety assessment tool (formed basis for licensing visits to registered families).
- ▶ Analyzing information from a pilot conducted to monitor FFN providers (60).

# Where Are We Now?

- ▶ Licensing forms the basis for ABC Quality.
- ▶ Quality is the “door” to the subsidy program.
- ▶ Working on an ABC Quality “Credential” for exempt facilities (currently only 4% of expenditures).
- ▶ Reviewing and revising ABC Quality standards, starting with 0-2; piloting and expert review.
- ▶ Looking at changes required by CCDBG law.

# Where Are We Going?

- ▶ Background Checks for Exempt Facilities.
- ▶ Full Background Checks for FFN's.
- ▶ Implementing FFN monitoring visits, likely in 2016; all CCDF providers will then be monitored by ABC Quality staff.
- ▶ Need to establish reasonable restrictions on eligibility for FFN subsidy providers:
  - ▶ Relative and non-relative.
  - ▶ Site visit prior to enrollment or within a specific time frame.
  - ▶ Determine if FFN's should be required to become registered.

# Questions?

Leigh Bolick, Director  
Division of Early Care and Education, SCDSS

[Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov)

803-898-7134

[www.scchildcare.org](http://www.scchildcare.org)

[www.abcquality.org](http://www.abcquality.org)