

Supporting Family Choices in Home-Based Care : The Kansas Approach

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July 31, 2007

Types of Child Care Providers in Kansas

- ◆ Centers
- ◆ Family Child Care Providers
- ◆ Group Homes
- ◆ Relative Providers
- ◆ In-Home Providers

Licensing Regulations in Kansas

◆ Licensed Providers

- Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
- Group Homes

◆ Registered Providers

- Family Child Care Homes

◆ Legally Exempt Providers

- Relative Providers
- In-Home Providers
- Some School Based Programs

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

- ◆ **Family care is legal if meets relative definition**
 1. **Grandmother**
 2. **Sibling**
 3. **Aunt/uncle**
 4. **Relationship can be through marriage, blood, or court decree to the child.**
- ◆ **Friend and neighbor care is considered illegal care unless total care hours provided do not exceed 20 hours per week**
- ◆ **Care provided in the child's home is legal**

Child Care Subsidy Provider Types

- ◆ Child Care Centers
- ◆ Family Child Care Homes
 - Licensed Homes
 - Registered Homes
- ◆ Group Homes
- ◆ Relative Care
- ◆ In-Home Care

Child Care Subsidy Providers

◆ Rates

- Family child care homes generally receive less than centers based on market study
- Registered child care home rates set at 65% of family child care home rates
- Relative child care providers have lowest rates overall
- In-home child care rate is \$1.72 per hour (minimum wage if caring for three children)

Child Care Subsidy Providers

◆ Requirements

- Enroll with Child Care Assistance Program
 - Be able to receive payments electronically
 - Pass child abuse registry check and criminal background check
 - Complete contract with EBT contractor
- ◆ Parents using in-home providers are required to contact IRS about their employer responsibility and obtain FEIN

Support for Home-Based Child Care

◆ Training

- Community Based
- Resource and Referral Agencies

◆ Infant Toddler Specialist Project

- Technical assistance for providers serving infants and toddlers

◆ T.E.A.C.H.

- Scholarships to earn AA or BA

◆ WAGE\$

- Bonuses for level of education achieved

Support for Home-Based Child Care

◆ Kansas Quality Rating System (KQRS)

- Preparation for rating visit
- Initial rating
- Quality Improvement Plan
- Coaching to meet plan goals
- Funds available for program enhancements
- Rating

Support For Home-Based Child Care

◆ Kansas Early Head Start

- Partner with family child care
- Pay enhanced rates
- Support provider obtaining CDA
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Pay for substitute care in some instances
- Pay for program enhancements

Support For Home-Based Child Care

◆ Kansas Pre-Kindergarten Pilots

- Includes school sites, Head Start Programs, child care centers and family child care homes
- Requires collaboration among community child care sites
- Requires KQRS rating of '3'
- Requires AA in Early Childhood for lead teachers
- Provides enhanced rates for participating providers

EBT Payment System

- ◆ **Encourages provider professionalism**
 - Requires contracts with parents
 - Requires provider record-keeping
- ◆ **Allows provider to set rates and payment terms**
 - Payments made in compliance with parent/provider contract
 - Not restricted to subsidy payment rates
- ◆ **Provides funds for up-front payment**
- ◆ **Allows provider to select payment method**
 - Point of Sale device (POS)
 - Automated Response Unit (ARU)

Relative Provider Pilot Project

- ◆ Dedicated \$75,000 funding for two pilots
- ◆ Goal is model that can be replicated statewide
- ◆ Using research based methods for engaging participants
- ◆ Offering training, technical assistance, support groups, incentives for providers
- ◆ Providers to assist in determining topics to be covered
- ◆ Pre and post assessments to determine change in practice

Upcoming Initiatives

◆ EHS Family Support Model Pilots

- Allow EHS Programs using home based model to work with unregulated caregivers as “extended family”

◆ Economic Impact Study

- Update of Child Care Industry completed in 2003
- Includes unregulated providers
- To be released late 2007

◆ Business Development Center

- Funding proposal for SFY 2009
- Focus is to provide business training for child care providers

Challenges

◆ Access for non-English speaking providers

- Availability of translated child care licensing forms
- Availability of training sessions in other than English
- Range of language needs in Kansas
 - ◆ Spanish, Somali, Laos, Vietnamese, Hmong, Low German, Arabic, Farsi, Russian, Swahili

Challenges

- ◆ Integration with Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan
- ◆ Implementation of Early Learning Guidelines across provider groups
- ◆ Evaluation and monitoring

Questions???

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