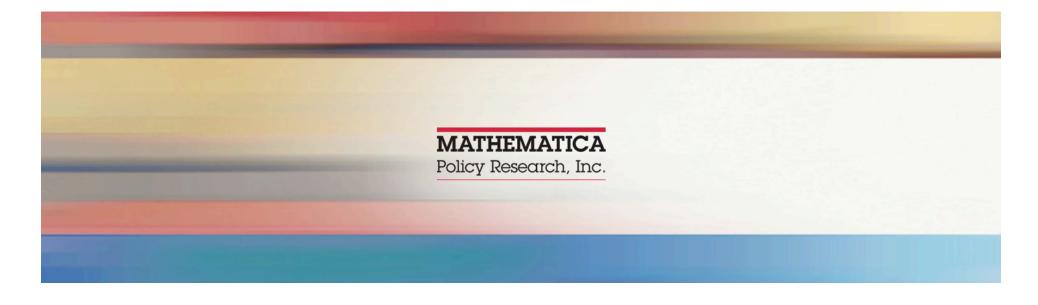
# Emerging Issues in Home-Based Child Care: What Do We Know About Initiatives to Support Quality in Home-Based Settings?

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#### **Overview of the Presentation**

- Overview of home-based child care
- Characteristics of home-based caregivers
- Initiatives to support quality in home-based care
- Research on effectiveness of initiatives to improve home-based care
- Lessons from implementation research for recruiting, engaging, and sustaining participation of caregivers

#### **Overview of Home-Based Care**

- Highly prevalent form of care, especially for infants and toddlers
- Most care provided by relatives
- Evidence on quality is mixed; many caregivers are affectionate and responsive but provide relatively low levels of cognitive stimulation
- Quality of regulated family child care is consistently higher than family, friend, and neighbor care

## **Characteristics of Home-Based Caregivers**

- Regulated family child care providers and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers who provide care in their own home
- Ages vary—most caregivers in mid-40s.
- Most caregivers have low incomes.
- Family, friend, and neighbor caregivers tend to share same race/ethnicity and home language as parents and children.
- Family child care providers are more likely to have a high school degree.

# Motivations and Challenges Faced by Home-Based Caregivers

- Motivation for family, friend, and neighbor caregivers: help the family or keep child care within the family
- Motivation for family child care providers: stay home with own children and earn income
- Challenges of home-based caregivers:
  - Isolation
  - Work-related stress and physical exhaustion
  - Conflicts with parents—childrearing styles, scheduling, payment, lack of respect for professional status

#### **Initiatives to Support Quality in Home-Based Care: Goals**

- Recent national scan identified 90 recent or ongoing initiatives in all 50 states
- Primary goals of initiatives:
  - Quality improvement (72)
  - Certificate program for college credit or CDA (4)
  - Support for licensing or registration (9)
  - Support for obtaining accreditation (5)

#### Initiatives to Support Quality in Home-Based Care: Strategies

- Primary service delivery strategies:
  - 46 Workshops
  - 17 Home visiting
  - 10 Coaching and consultation
  - 6 Play and learn groups
  - 5 Materials and mailings
  - 4 Peer support
  - 2 Professional development through formal education
  - 2 Visits from mobile reading vans
  - 2 Grants to caregivers
- Most initiatives supplement primary approaches with secondary strategies.

## Research on Quality Initiatives for Home-Based Child Care

- The evidence base on effectiveness of quality initiatives is limited.
  - Literature review identified 15 studies
  - Scan of the field identified 27 studies
- Few studies examined child outcomes.
- Most studies used descriptive, correlational, or pre-post designs; a few were RCTs or QEDs.
- Samples were small and selected.

#### Factors to Consider in Recruiting Home-Based Caregivers

- Caregivers who participate in the regulatory or subsidy system: use lists maintained by state regulatory and subsidy agencies and CCR&Rs.
- Caregivers who do not participate in the regulatory or subsidy system:
  - Work through trusted organizations and natural leaders in the community.
  - House initiatives within programs for families with young children—HS, EHS, PAT, other family support.
  - Conduct door-to-door recruiting drives.
  - Participate in community events and fairs.

## **Factors to Consider in Identifying Caregivers Interests**

- Caregivers are more likely to enroll in programs that address their interests/needs.
- Interests of family, friend, and neighbor caregivers:
  - Information on health, safety, development, and activities to promote school readiness
  - Experiential learning opportunities
- Interests of family child care providers:
  - Opportunities to increase income and professional development
  - Services that lead to a credential or accreditation

## Factors to Consider in Identifying Caregivers Needs (Cont.)

- Interests common to all types of home-based caregivers:
  - Opportunities for social interaction to reduce isolation
  - Strategies for working with parents

# **Encouraging Participation and Sustaining Engagement**

#### Incentives to Encourage Participation:

- Informational incentives
- Financial incentives
- Social incentives
- Public and professional recognition
- Strategies for sustaining engagement:
  - Tailor services to learning styles of target population
  - Incorporate opportunities for social support
  - Tailor services to caregivers' home language and culture
- Caregivers need supports to access services: transportation, child care, flexible scheduling.

#### **Supporting Quality in Home-Based Care Project**

#### Research funded by OPRE/ACF

#### Anticipated Products:

- Literature review on home-based care
- Compendium of initiatives
- Practitioner's guide for designing initiatives
- Design options for home-based care initiatives

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