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# Child Care Dosage, Threshold, and Features: State Administrator Policy Perspective



# State Perspective on Using New Data

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## ➤ Policy Context

- Budget factors require even more comprehensive cost/benefit analysis

## ➤ Regulatory Issues

- How do we, as state administrators, apply research findings across our systems-- multiple settings and varying levels of quality?



# Dosage

- What does this mean for children on subsidy, particularly children in part-time care?
- How do we control for the continuity of care in our subsidy programs? (Often the range of time on subsidy is 6-8 months).
- Are children on subsidy more at-risk and have even greater need for higher dosage?



# Thresholds

- Relationship between quality and child outcomes stronger at higher levels of quality
  - Should we limit the use of our subsidy dollars to only high quality programs?
  - Does this information increase the need for tiered reimbursement?
  - How do we reconcile with parental choice restriction to higher quality?



# Features of Quality

- Whether we measure for global, teacher-child interactions, or domain specific quality is critical as we continue to develop or enhance our QRI Systems.
- Currently, focus is predominantly on global quality.
- Research would suggest that we also include at least a focus on interactions.



# Individualized Approaches to Consultation

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- Regulatory agencies historically focused on one-size-fits-all approach (equity/fairness)
- TA needs similar for a 5-star and 1-star center?
- Not only more TA needed for 1-star but qualitatively different TA needed



- Coaching, mentoring, consultation, and TA are conceptually unique constructs and all needed in some cases; are states prepared to provide all?
- Relationships are key and mentoring and coaching develop these relationships more fully; this level of commitment may be required to motivate some programs to change, but can we afford it?



- Individualized TA based on education-level of staff; star-level, program philosophy, and much more
  - NC Consultant Re-training
  - NC Monitoring Efficiency Study
  - Partnership with Other TA to ensure cost-effectiveness?





# Ready for Change?

- As part of our task of individualizing we must determine when it is time to make the move with a provider from one to two stars.
- As state administrators often we must focus at this program level rather than the individual
- Complexity of change dynamic even greater at program level



# Summary

- While continuing research is critical to our everyday work we must determine ways to apply findings to the real world contexts of regulation and subsidy in order to create the quality changes needed for all children.