

## LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY CHILD CARE 9-21-16

A county licensing perspective

### Introduction

Operational overview of county structure in trying to ensure health and safety standards are followed  
Some perceived barriers and areas of consideration for licensed family child care providers  
Our lens is a licensor lens  
Dakota County is fortunate to have a unit dedicated exclusively to family child care licensing

### County licensing, operationally

- Provide orientation to the health and safety regulations
- Receive and process applications
- Conduct background studies and review results
- Provide inspection of the environment and paperwork
- Observe the program in operation
- Receive and investigate complaints
- Document instances of regulations that are not followed, ensuring public information is available to consumers
- Recommend action on a license when faced with serious violations or disqualifying criminal/maltreatment record
- Participate in hearings and appeal processes

### State oversight on county licensing

- Audited by Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) staff for compliance with regulations
- Training for licensing workers is offered by DHS in core licensing functions
- DHS has the final authority in all negative actions issued
- DHS has a role in reviewing specific county licensing work (requests for reconsideration of correction orders and orders of conditional license)
- DHS accepts online questions directly from providers about licensed family child care
- DHS consultation regularly, as needed

### Dakota County program structure

- Bi-weekly case consultation meetings (including formal weekly case and policy review)
- Maintain formal decision log
- Supervision: Independent of other departments, incorporates site visit as part of licensor annual review
- Teamed visits for greater consistency
- Consistent communication with County Attorney's Office regarding negative action recommendations, DQs
- Licensing worker evaluations (completed by providers)

### Consultation is critical

- Language in rules is necessarily broad
  - Wide range of home types
  - Different types of child care spaces and programs
- Consultation with other licensors, supervisor, County Attorney, and/or DHS supports development of a more consistent standard of safety
- Consultation provides licensors support in their decision making

### Areas of Consideration: Training

#### Current Training Requirements


- Sudden Unexpected Infant Death
- Abusive Head Trauma
- Supervising for Safety
- Child Growth and Development / Behavior Guidance
- CPR/First Aid
- Passenger Restraint Training (if transporting children)
- Additional hours to total 16 per year

### Areas of Consideration: Training, cont

- Complexity
- Cost
- Timing
  - License period vs "annual"
- Accessibility
  - Online registration
  - Available trainings

**Area of Consideration: Infant Care**

- Community need for infant care
- Perceived Liability
- Increase in sanctions

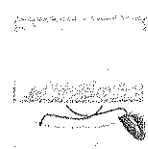


**SEE HER SMILING  
FACE FIRST.**

ADVANCED CHILD SERVICES  
FOR THE CHICAGO METRO  
AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Areas of Consideration: Reliance on Technology**

- Develop
  - Finding training
  - Registering for training
- Online Training/Eager to Learn
- County Level Changes



**Areas of Consideration: Paperwork**

<p><u>Required Forms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application</li> <li>Checklist including enrollment information</li> <li>Worker's Compensation Compliance Form</li> <li>Release for Background Study</li> <li>Liability Insurance Notification</li> <li>Child Care Reporting Notifications</li> <li>Required paperwork for each child in care</li> </ul>	<p><u>Additional Forms (beyond required paperwork for each child):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of an Infant Younger Than 6 Months Independently Rolling Over</li> <li>Physician Directive for Alternative Infant Sleep Position</li> <li>Parental Consent for Swaddling</li> <li>Swimming and/or wading pool permission</li> </ul>
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**THANK YOU**

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