

e-mail from NCCIC regional staff

From: Anderson, Rae A [mailto:randerso@nccic.org]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2007 11:31 AM
To: Pollak, John [LEGIS]
Cc: Anderson, Jeffrey [DHS]; Betty Lammle; Ingersoll, Julie [DHS]
Subject: RE: Iowa Home-based Child Care Committee

Mr. Pollak - Thank you for your request for information and assistance from the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC). I have talked with my colleague Sheri Azer, Information Specialist, at our central office to determine how best to respond to your request. I am attaching and/or including - for your information and review - resources related to child care regulation that you might find useful.

The first is a NCCIC Information Product (IP), ***Impact of Increased Licensing Regulations on the Quality, Cost and Supply of Child Care***. It is a sample of State and national research studies on the impact of increased licensing regulations on the quality, cost, and supply of child care. Also included is information about research on the impact of higher program standards from Quality Ratings Systems on quality in child care settings.

The second is ***Licensing and Public Regulation of Early Childhood Programs: A Position Statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children***, which was adopted in 1983 and revised in 1992 and 1997. The document includes NAEYC recommendations and/or ten principles for implementing an effective regulatory system. As we discussed on the phone - there are no two state regulatory systems that are alike - and while there may be some shared elements across all states - it is impossible to compare one state regulatory system to another on every level. States have found it useful to measure their existing regulatory system against the NAEYC ten principles to determine how well they are doing in implementing an effective system.

The ***2005 Child Care Licensing Study***, produced by National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) and NCCIC, which can be accessed at the Website below. The primary focus of the *2005 Study* is on child care centers. However, there are several tables that the Iowa legislative interim committee on home-based child care might find of interest. The following tables include information about **regulated child care** in general, and include **home-based child care**:

Table A: Number of Licensed Child Care Facilities in 2005
Table C: Estimated Licensing Staff Caseloads in 2005
Table D: Frequency of Licensing Inspections in 2005
Table E: Frequency of Licensing in 2005

According to the *2005 Study*, there are two states - Louisiana and South Carolina - and the District of Columbia that allow **corporal punishment** in **child care centers**. These two states and DC specifically allow corporal punishment or, it is allowed because corporal punishment is NOT addressed in regulation. Information is not currently available on home-based child care.

Thirty-one states prohibit **tobacco use** in **child care centers**, according to the *2005 Study*. Information is not currently available on home-based child care.

2005 Child Care Licensing Study -

<http://www.nara.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=104>

The most current information on research related to quality of child care provided by relatives, ***Measuring Quality in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care: Conceptual and Practical***

Issues, by Erin J. Maher, Human Services Policy Center, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, April 2007, can be accessed at the following website:

Measuring Quality in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care: Conceptual and Practical Issues - <http://childcareresearch.org/SendPdf?resourceId=12033>

Additionally, NCCIC recently provided to Travis Stemmons, Iowa DHS, information about lessons learned in others states when making changes to the child care regulatory system. More specifically, changes related to the proposal in Iowa to move from voluntary registration of child care homes with fewer than six children, to mandatory registration and/or licensing of all child care homes. According to family child care licensing thresholds, tracked overtime, few states have made such child care regulatory changes in the recent past.

The following information regarding two specific States - Indiana and Tennessee - is based on conversations with NCCIC Information Specialists and other NCCIC State Technical Assistance Specialists:

Indiana attempted to change their threshold from four children to three a few years ago, but they were not successful in winning support and approval from the legislature.

Tennessee eliminated registered homes in 2002. Previous to that they had contracted with registered home sponsors who were to monitor for minimal standards, and provide technical assistance/support to promote licensure of registered homes. Upon conducting an audit of the contracted registered home sponsors, the State learned that registered homes were not being monitored, nor were they being encouraged to become licensed. Tennessee first eliminated the registered home sponsors, and then had a team of State licensing staff monitor the registered homes against the registered home standards. They were alarmed by the low standard of care and concerned about basic health and safety of children. Additionally, they were concerned about public perception related to the states role/responsibility in paying for substandard care through child care subsidy.

Tennessee issued a deadline to terminate registered homes, and notified providers that they would have to become licensed, or be determined unregulated. The state contracted with the TN Family Child Care Home Alliance to conduct outreach to registered homes, and mentor them to become licensed providers. According to the State the transition for most was reasonably smooth - approximately 40 percent of the registered homes became licensed providers.

Tennessee reports that the impact on the child care regulatory system was minimal due to the existing, well staffed child care licensing team. Child Care licensing staff welcomed the increase in the number of licensed child care providers after witnessing such substandard care in registered homes. Additionally, the State thinks it is important to point out that Tennessee has a strong Family Child Care Alliance, which fully supports the States goal to license all home providers. The State continues to contract with the Family Child Care Alliance to mentor newly licensed home providers to promote child care as a business, increase professional development, and increase success as a child care professional. Tennessee reports that their success is due - in large part - to laying a

strong foundation to promote, and support child care registered homes in becoming licensed providers.

The NCCIC document, *Threshold of Licensed Family Child Care (June 2007)*, which I understand you have, is an excellent resource to help the interim committee consider current regulatory practice in Iowa - as it relates to number of children in family child care and licensing - as compared to other states.

Please review the information provided and let me know if you have questions, comments or would like to discuss anything in particular. I look forward to receiving the agenda for your meeting on July 31. Thanks, Rae

Rae A. Anderson

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