

CHAPTER 1083**CHILD DAY CARE***H.F. 2322*

AN ACT relating to child day care and similar services concerning the state day care advisory committee and statewide resource and referral services.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 237A.1, subsection 14, Code Supplement 1991, is amended to read as follows:

14. "State child day care advisory committee council" means the state child day care advisory committee council established pursuant to sections 237A.21 and 237A.22.

Sec. 2. Section 237A.12, unnumbered paragraph 3, Code Supplement 1991, is amended to read as follows:

Rules relating to fire safety shall be adopted under this chapter by the state fire marshal in consultation with the department. Rules relating to sanitation shall be adopted by the department in consultation with the director of public health. All rules shall be developed in consultation with the state child day care advisory committee council. The state fire marshal shall inspect the facilities.

Sec. 3. Section 237A.21, Code 1991, is amended to read as follows:

237A.21 STATE CHILD DAY CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COUNCIL.

1. There is established a A state child day care advisory committee to consist council is established consisting of eleven not more than thirty-five members from urban and rural areas across the state. The membership shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following persons or representatives with an interest in child day care: a licensed center, a registered family day care home from a county with a population of less than twenty-two thousand, an unregistered family day care home, a parent of a child in child day care, appropriate governmental agencies, and other members as deemed necessary by the director. The membership consists of three interested citizens, three parents of children served and one provider of preschool, one provider of for-profit day care, one provider of nonprofit day care, one provider of federal head start programs, and one provider of family day care members are eligible for reimbursement of their actual and necessary expenses while engaged in performance of their official duties.

2. Members shall be appointed by the director from a list of names submitted by a nominating committee to consist of one member of the state day care advisory committee council established pursuant to this section, one member of the department's child day care unit of the department staff, three consumers of child day care, and one member of a professional child day care organization. Two names shall be submitted for each appointment. Members shall be appointed for terms of three years but no member shall be appointed to more than two consecutive terms. The state day care advisory committee council shall write develop its own operational policies with which are subject to departmental approval.

3. The membership of the council shall be appointed in a manner so as to provide equitable representation of persons with an interest in child day care and shall include all of the following:

- a. Two parents of a child served by a family or group day care home.
- b. Two parents of a child served by a licensed center.
- c. Two not-for-profit child day care providers.
- d. Two for profit child day care providers.
- e. Two family day care home providers.
- f. Two group day care home providers.
- g. One child day care resource and referral service grantee.
- h. One nongovernmental child advocacy group representative.
- i. One designee of the department of human services or the Iowa department of public health.
- j. One designee of the department of education.

k. One head start program provider.

1. Two legislators appointed in a manner so that both major political parties are represented.

Sec. 4. Section 237A.22, Code 1991, is amended to read as follows:

237A.22 DUTIES OF STATE CHILD DAY CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COUNCIL.

The state child day care advisory committee council shall do all of the following:

1. Consult with and make recommendations to the department in the promulgation of rules under this chapter.

2. Recommend improvements in the licensing and registration of facilities.

3. Advise the department on licensing policy, planning, and priorities.

1. Consult with and make recommendations to the department concerning policy issues relating to child day care.

2. Advise the department concerning services relating to child day care, including but not limited to any of the following:

a. Resource and referral services.

b. Provider training.

c. Quality improvement.

d. Public-private partnerships.

e. Standards review and development.

3. Assist the department in developing an implementation plan to provide seamless service to recipients of public assistance which includes child day care services. For the purposes of this subsection, "seamless service" means coordination, where possible, of the federal and state requirements which apply to child day care.

4. Advise and provide technical services to the director of the department of education or the director's designee, upon request, relating to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before and after school programming and facilities.

Sec. 5. Section 237A.26, Code 1991, is amended to read as follows:

237A.26 STATEWIDE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICES.

1. The department shall administer a statewide grant program for child day care resource and referral services. Grants shall only be awarded to community-based nonprofit incorporated agencies and public agencies. Grants shall be awarded to facilitate the establishment of regional resource and referral agencies throughout the state, based upon the distribution of the child population in the state.

2. The department shall provide oversight of and annually evaluate an agency which is awarded a grant to provide resource and referral services to a region.

3. The department shall provide technical assistance to child day care facilities in meeting their insurance coverage needs at a reasonable cost.

4. In consultation with resource and referral agencies, the department shall provide opportunities to child day care facilities for group purchasing of equipment and supplies.

5. 3. An agency which receives a grant to provide resource and referral services shall be encouraged to perform both of the following functions:

a. Organize assistance to family and group day care homes in a three tier approach which concentrates efforts on new providers, moderately experienced providers, and highly experienced providers as three distinct groups utilizing training levels based upon the homes' degrees of experience and interest.

b. Operate in partnership with both public and private interests and coordinate resource and referral services with existing community services.

6. 4. An agency, to be eligible to receive a grant to provide resource and referral services, must match the grant with financial resources equal to at least twenty-five percent of the amount of the grant. The financial resources may include a private donation, an in-kind contribution, or a public funding source other than a separate state grant for child care service improvement.

7. 5. An agency, to be eligible to receive a grant to provide resource and referral services, must have a board of directors if the agency is an incorporated nonprofit agency or must have

an advisory board if the agency is a public agency, to oversee the provision of resource and referral services. The board shall include providers, consumers, and other persons interested in the provision or delivery of child day care services.

§ 6. An agency which receives a child care resource and referral grant may shall provide all of the following services:

a. Assist families in selecting quality child care. The agency must provide referrals to registered and licensed child day care facilities, and to persons providing care, supervision, or guidance of a child which is not defined as child day care under section 237A.1 and may provide referrals to unregistered providers.

b. Assist child day care providers in adopting appropriate program and business practices to provide quality child care services.

c. Provide information to the public regarding the availability of child day care services in the communities within the agency's region.

d. Actively encourage the development of new and expansion of existing child day care facilities in response to identified community needs.

e. Provide specialized services to employers, including the provision of resource and referral services to employee groups identified by the employer and the provision of technical assistance to develop employer-supported child day care programs operated on or near the work site.

f. Refer eligible child day care facilities to the federal child care food programs.

g. Loan toys, other equipment, and resource materials to child day care facilities.

~~h. Inform child day care facilities regarding technical assistance available from the department in obtaining insurance coverage at a reasonable cost.~~

~~i. Assist the department in providing child day care facilities with opportunities for group purchasing of equipment and supplies.~~

~~j h. Administer funding designated within the grant to provide a substitute caregiver program for registered family and group day care homes to provide substitute care in a home when the home provider is ill, on vacation, receiving training, or is otherwise unable to provide the care.~~

7. The department may contract with an agency receiving a child day care resource and referral grant to perform any of the following functions relating to publicly funded services providing care, supervision, or guidance of a child:

a. Determine an individual's eligibility for the services in accordance with income requirements.

b. Administer a voucher, certificate, or other system for reimbursing an eligible provider of the services.

Approved April 14, 1992