



Public Policy Quarterly Report
October 29, 2011

Large Family Homes Passed - 2011

- Replaces small child care centers in family homes
- Brand new chapter “Large Family Child Care Home”
 - Capacity of 9-12 (but can be lower).
 - Goes into effect as of January 1, 2012.
 - Anyone who is currently a small center can remain a center, they will be grandfathered in.
 - Anyone who is newly applying for a large family child care home will have to meet the requirements of a large family child care home and not small center regulation. They can still apply for center, but must meet all the requirements of a center.
 - Subsidy rates for a large family child care home will be the same as a center.
 - MSDE will hold information session across the state for the currently licensed small centers to answer any questions.

Legislation

- MSDE will be seeking legislation during the 2012 session that will require background checks for all Providers. This is already a requirement for family child care providers but will be expanded to informal providers (providers receiving subsidy checks from the state).
- MSDE is asking for our support on this bill.

Electronic Inspections

- All inspections will be completed using a computer tablet
- No more paper inspections
- As specialist become more familiar, it will speed up the inspections and bring more consistency to the inspection. Additional comments do not get posted, new system has a space for date the finding was corrected. Website will show corrections.
- If you provide an email address, you should get the next day a copy of your inspections and summary of findings.
- If you do not receive, contact licensing specialist and they can attach to a email.
- If you do not have an email, let your specialist know, they will print and send you a copy via snail mail.
- Checkcmd.org is the website to check records.

Child Care Subsidy Updates

- Centralized Payment Processing
 - April 12, 2010
 - Attendance documentation required, if requested (this is a change)
 - All information must be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.
 - Most payments are processed in 24 hours, payment is faster if done electronically
- Wait list implemented
 - Applies to all NEW applicants after February 28, 2011, except TCA and SSI

Credentialing Updates

- 10th Anniversary of Implementation
- Data entry personnel (swamped); almost 7000 people participating in program. All payments are done by hand.
- Developing standard training curricula for 45, 90 clock hours courses and Healthy Beginnings

Healthy Beginnings

- www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org
- Each R&R has boxes of charts for all regulated child care programs in state.

www.thinkport.org

Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System

- Currently tiered reimbursement
- Why TQRIS – provides a framework to articulate to the public the various quality initiatives a provider/center participate in and undertake
- Recognizes child care providers/centers for their accomplishments
- Tiered Reimbursement – Revised
- EXCELS” Excellence in Early Learning and School Age Care”
 - Voluntary participation
 - One to Five Check Marks
 - One Check = Licensed, plus minimal additional requirements
 - Two to Five Checks
 - Licensed, plus additional requirements
 - On-line or paper application
 - Process
 - Standards developed
 - Currently in Pilot
 - A cohort of providers currently in pilot
 - EXCELS Standards
 - Licensing and compliance
 - Staffing and Professional Development
 - Rating Scale and Accreditation
 - Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice/Child Assessment
 - Administrative Policies and practices
 - Almost all quality initiatives tied to QRIS.

Early Learning Challenge Fund

MSDE applied for the Early Learning Challenge Grant which is part of the Race to the Top initiative under the Obama administration.

Some of the goals of the grant are to:

- Narrow the readiness gap for children with high needs in the next four years.
- Increase the number of children entering school from the 2011 percentage of 81% to 92% by 2015.
- Goals will be achieved through the following projects:
 - Local Early Learning Councils – creation of 24 local early childhood councils that will support the work of the State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education.
 - Maryland EXCELS (Piloting, full roll out, and evaluation)
 - Quality Capacity Building
 - Early Childhood Breakthrough Center Approach – Implementation of quality capacity building support for early learning and development participating in Maryland EXCELS with a special focus on those programs located in Title 1 attendance areas, in the schools in school improvement, and areas with highest concentration of children with high needs.
 - Community Hubs – establish (2) hubs to provide and coordinate existing services in the community for families with children, birth-5, in two highly under resourced communities in Baltimore City.
 - Preschool for All – Establish 5 preschool for all sites, where pre-k programs are integrated in child care or Head Start settings, in Title 1 attendance areas
 - Judy Center Expansion – establish 2 Judy Center satellite sites in Title 1 schools in school improvement in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County
 - Extended Option – IFSP
 - Promoting the use of statewide, high quality early learning and development standards
 - Develop a guide to early childhood pedagogy
 - Promoting use of early learning standards (expansion of STEM and VIOLETS to 150 programs who are participating in EXCELS)
 - Professional development for developing early learning standards (expansion of MMSR training)
 - Comprehensive Assessment System (assessment for children birth to 72 months and developmental screening)
 - Child Development Innovations
 - Best beginnings development screen (screening tool)
 - Maryland Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (pilot and expansion)
 - SEFEL – continue to support
 - Family Engagement and Support
 - Coalition for family engagement – develop framework
 - Family engagement at libraries
 - Learning parties
 - Expand Reach out and Read
 - Leadership in Early Learning Academy
 - Early Learning Data Systems

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fowler