



Kathleen Sebelius, Governor  
 Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
 AND ENVIRONMENT

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Division of Health



**Kansas Child Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Listening Tour**

**Location:** Manhattan, Kansas  
**Date:** November 13, 2007  
**Participants:** Approximately 48 persons participated

**Participant Process**

The Department of Health and Environment is in the process of redesigning the child care licensing system to meet the needs of children and families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The process began in October 2007 with a state-wide listening tour to solicit comments on day care homes, child care centers and private preschools registered or licensed by the Department. The comments will be considered in the development of policies, procedures and standards of care that provide safety for children, encourage early learning, and balance best practices and the business realities that face child care providers every day. The participants were asked to respond to the question identified below. All the comments were recorded. The participants were then asked to vote on their most pressing concerns. Each person had a maximum of six votes. The question asked in the tour, the comments and the number of votes are listed below.

**Listening Tour Question**

If Kansas is to have a quality 21<sup>st</sup> Century Child Care system, what improvements or changes are needed in regulations and in the licensing process? (Please think both about content as well as process. Include the inspection process, sanction process, licensing policies and regulations.)

**Number of Votes and Comments Received**

Votes	<b>Comments</b>
23	Require SIDS training for all child care providers. Also shaken baby syndrome. (Comment: This kind of training would need to be offered everywhere almost every week. Can't be holding up paperwork waiting on this training.) (Comment: Some states require so many hours before you start working with children. Would be helpful to have some time allowed to get the training while still caring for children.)
21	It would help to have licensing regulations written clearly, more user friendly so you can find things. Less would be open to interpretation.
15	Ages of children. Children at the age of 12 months are not toddlers, they are still infants developmentally. Children that are 2.5 are not pre-schoolers. Developmentally they are still a toddler. Look at these ages.
13	Would like to see the training requirements strengthened for both pre-service. Training requirements should show respect for providers that have earned an early childhood degree (within a certain period of time) and also increase the requirements for the providers not seeking a degree or CDA (need more than 5 hours). (Comment: Some people are good with children without all that schooling and vice versa.) (Comment: With the TEACH program, we also go through student teaching. They watch us instruct. There is a difference based on the type of degree you have.)

Votes	 <b>Comments</b> 
12	Would like some allowance for health assessment. Deal with a lot of young parents, military parents and they need to have at least a 5 day allowance to get the paperwork. (Comment: Sometimes it takes 2 – 3 weeks to get in to see the doctor. Could we use an assessment from another state until they get an assessment here?)
12	Background checks. We get no receipt they have been received. We only get notification if something comes up bad. We need a quicker turnaround and need to know if it was received. (Comment: Is KBI background only for Kansas? Kansas check only. Needs to expand to the national.)
11	My concern is with registered people taking care of children. Why aren't they licensed? Licensing provides more safety. (Comment: My child care provider is registered. You have to do your own research on providers. )
9	Would like to see the curricular suggestions and guidelines tied to the Kansas early learning standards and guidelines.
9	We need some help funding the training. CPR training is expensive.
8	Would like to see training for our surveyors throughout the state so when a new surveyor comes in they are on the same page with all the other surveyors so different interpretations do not occur.
7	Would like to see some emphasize on training for caring for children with disabilities.
7	The regulation book...it is hard to operate a business on exactly what the book says. The surveyors need to look at the way we are operating, look at our history and then decide. It is very degrading to be written up for the very little things. (Comment: It will be hard to not go by the book. You have to have rules but you also have to have common sense.)
7	We should have more training and more requirements for education for good quality care.
5	Age transition when you transition from infant to toddler when they move from a crib/playpen to a mat. There should be some leniency here. Sometimes before 18 months they are too big for the playpen.
5	With the infant ratio, if you are going to 12 months, I would like to see the number of infants be a maximum of 2 infants. I don't want to see the infant ratio for less than 12 months raised. (Comment: I agree with you. Infants developmentally are up to 18 months of age. I wouldn't want to see more babies per provider.) Comment: I have a group home. There are two of us with 4 infants under 12 months and that was a full time job.
5	Would like to have teacher qualifications looked at (center-based). Need to have an education that includes child development and early childhood development (and experience that could be substituted for it). With the low work force, we need to find a way to help people become qualified to work with young children.
5	We will need to look at the affordability of the infant and toddler ratio. Parents cannot afford to pay us. We need the state to kick in some money. (Comment: I would hate to say we changed the regulations to make child care more affordable.)
5	It is hard to know when a kindergartener is a kindergartener. It should be when they are 5.
4	Would like to see the state offer the training they require on a regular basis. I have been searching for month for CPR, first aid training and I can't hire people until they have this training. (Comment: We might have it 30 miles away or more. For a low paying job, it is hard to convince people to go that far for the training.)
4	Maybe we could have regulations on-line that had a search bar so you could put in a topic and you could find it through a search.
4	Better clarified nutritional standards. Perhaps meet USDA requirements. Current requirements are very vague. They don't spell out by age. Just very general. Doesn't spell out portions and requirements by age. (Comment: CACFP spells out the specifications.)
4	Concerns regarding the health assessment for children and staff. We need both. For the staff, come in with a wonderful physical but not on the form so we have to have it redone on the KDHE form. The same thing for the children (Head Start has more stringent requirements than KDHE form documents.) Would like to be able to accept the physical on the doctor's form for both staff and children.
4	I hear from providers that they don't appreciate their surveyors coming through every closet and drawer. I understand they have to look for a hiding child or for a gun...if the room is not locked or a safety gate is not up then makes sense. If the room cannot be accessed by children, does it have to be checked when I have had no previous problems. We need some privacy somewhere.

Votes	 <b>Comments</b> 
4	Would like to see clarification as to when to include and exclude children when they have diseases. Clarify communicable diseases.
3	Every call I have received is for infant care. It is a big need here. A 13 month old, a 15 month old...they can walk, they can communicate. Why count them as infants?
3	Registered family day care home provider. Every year we fill out the same form. I can see filling out the children and their shots. Why do we have to fill out the same questions about the house? This should be already in the file.
2	Home day care perspective. I don't think my 17 month year old should be considered an infant. Not much different from my 19 month olds.
2	When some of our 2.5 year olds need to transfer some are ready and some are not. We need some more leeway.
2	Language use...qualifications for staff. Was told anyone left alone with the child is considered a program director. The qualifications are so stiff you can't find someone that can be there all day with children. Look at this terminology.
2	Child care centers. Qualifications of staff are different depending on the number of children the room is licensed for. I would like to see the qualifications be the same.
2	It would be helpful in the day care homes if they could better understand the ratios allowed by age.
1	Why can't we do the day care and foster care check at the same time?
1	Registered provider. My insurance only allows me to have 6 other children in the house. Why should I go to licensing when I can only have 6 other children? I'm also a licensed nurse. If I apply for my CDA, all my nurses training hours would not count. Why not when I'm still qualified to work in a hospital.
1	I have seen some pretty dirty places...in a place where infants are picking up dog food off the floor...this can and should be regulated.
0	TB test: Why do our families have to have them and folks that work there but the surveyors don't have to have them nor do the people that serve the food? (Comment: People that come in to observe your home do have to have a TB test and so do the CACFP.)
0	What about the surveyors? We should be eligible to see their credentials as well.
0	If my child who is sick three times a year and I have to count him as being in my care. He is 10 years old, very independent and upstairs with my husband. This doesn't make sense.
0	In the present booklet, if you have no infants, that chart is not finished.
0	Each child is a different individual. Perhaps there could be an assessment process for each child to see where they are developmentally. (Comment: Will be a challenge to assess the child. May not talk for a person they do not know.)
0	Lead teacher qualification for infant/toddler and pre-schooler are completely different. These need to be somewhat steady across the age groups...need to be based on the same criteria.
	Comment made at the end: It needs to be clarified on who we need KBI information on.