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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 AND ENVIRONMENT

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Division of Health



Kansas Child Care in the 21st Century Listening Tour

Location: Kansas City, Kansas
Date: November 1, 2007
Participants: Approximately 57 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 21st 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 21st 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	Comments
16	There are different interpretations of what is allowed when the inspectors come out. Need uniformity and consistency. (Comment: More consistent from one center to the next and from one county to the next).
12	The state will be rolling at KQRS so it makes sense to have licensing standards support KQRS. Licensing could be a small stepping stone to KQRS.
12	When children are out of school and they have more than one child in school and with holidays and in-service coming up. There needs to be some leniency for overlap. When parents are late, you also need some allowance for overlap.
11	I do not think we should lower the infant age nor should they be allowed to have more infants in their care. Why? They require so much more attention. Child development tells us they need more attention. For a fire, how would you get them all out? (Comment: I agree but I do think child care providers with the pre-K may just be left with infants. How do we financially take care of ourselves?)
11	Education: Concerned that Center Directors and managers only have 5 hours. Need to have a little more in the leadership and professional development areas. (Comment: Need to see more offerings for our Directors and staff and more variety.)

Votes	 Comments 
11	Concerned about expansion of pre-K programs and that these have taken away this age group for our day care homes.
11	We need funding for providers to help us continue our education.
10	Is there a time limit in how long the inspector/surveyor is supposed to stay in the home? Would like to see one if there is not. (Comment: Would like for us to be able to get a statement of what their job is and what they are supposed to be looking for.)
10	Would like to know how come we can't be informed when the inspector is going to come. They take away from our schedules.
10	We have been trying to raise the level of our profession. Change Day Care providers to Early Childhood professionals or something more professional.
9	Would like to see CPR required for family child care. (Comment: For centers as well.)
9	Would like to see the regulations stated more specifically. i.e. what are they looking for?
9	Would like to see it be up to parents and providers when a child can be taken out of a playpen. Some 18 month olds are not ready to be taken out of a playpen.
8	Having trouble trying to meet accreditation, KDHE, etc. standards. We need a blending of quality so we know which standards to meet.
9	Would like to see SIDS as a required training and shaken baby syndrome as well as how to detect child abuse and neglect.
7	Would like to see FBI checks rather than just KBI checks because it allows you to deal with folks coming from other states.
7	Process of licensing takes too long. With the technology, an acceptable time frame would be a couple of weeks (two weeks).
6	Would like to see tougher regulations for observers. You don't have to have proof of employment or a background check.
5	On-line regulations with key word search would be great.
5	Education: Seems like different organizations are trying to educate providers. The providers also need help with funding to help provide education to the children. We have a curriculum in our home and we need help buying materials.
5	Lockdown: Some way to get communication between schools and day cares if there is a lockdown.
4	KBI checks take much so long. They should take less than one month. (Comment: 2 weeks) (Comment: It should be less than 2 weeks. We need staff immediately.)
4	Would like to see education components be aligned with the KS early learning standards.
4	Any regulation changes or revisions, day care providers need to be notified immediately. (Comment: Even if something that is a suggestion would be good to know. Something that they will give us a consultation for.) With the notification there needs to be a date of when you are expected to meet this change.
4	Case workers and child care providers: Why can't they take training together so they are on the same page?
3	There is some confusion in terms of current and up to date physicals. Something in licensing says they can't be over 6 months old. With the Kan Be Healthy, parents can only get these one time per year.
3	Would like to see something written in on having some leeway when the child is getting ready to change rooms. Would like for them to be able to go visit the room in advance.
3	Rather than having a 151:1 ratio of centers to surveyors, this needs to be collapsed (by 1/3). (Comment: We need more inspectors.)
3	Would like to see the health and safety standards of KDHE be combined with National resource for health and safety of children. (Use as a guideline.)
3	What happens to the documents on our monthly child care literature (the plan)? This is SRS.
2	Clarification of the teacher/teacher assistants. Upgrade to AA and CDA for these positions. (Comment: As we upgrade, need to find accessible and affordable opportunities to find these. When we get them to this level, need help figuring out how to pay them. Losing them to the school district now.)

Votes	 Comments 
2	Inspectors need to all be trained the same. They are all doing something different.
2	More state and CDA trainers to be on the same accord. The state training is different from some of the other training.
2	Don't agree that people that come into a center from a home day care only qualify for certain things and experience in the center. They should be the same.
2	License amendments should not take one year to do. Should be timelier. (Microwave it!)
2	Would like to see something in place for notification about predators – how do you know someone has moved into the area? Is there a way to notify all the day cares around?
1	Tooth brushing in the centers. Have problem. I understand the importance. Just seems we are constantly battling how they want it stored. One year it is OK, next it is unsanitary.
1	Health assessments: I don't understand why a PA can't sign these. Need flexibility on who can sign these. Doctors see them but PA often fills out the paperwork. (Comment: probably nurse practitioners as well)
1	Could regs be more user friendly in finding things?
1	I'm in the process of opening a day care and I've been working in a day care for one year. Why do I still have to go to 5 day cares for observation? This is taking so much of my time. Some of my hours should already be counted.
1	Inspectors need to be a little more people oriented. Not so intimidating.
1	When inspectors come in your home, they should be able to show you a list of what they are looking for or going to look at. (Comment: When you get the regulation book you can tell what they will be looking for.)
1	When my inspector comes in my center, it feels like we are working together. The idea is that we are working together. In 25 years, I have never walked away feeling they have picked on me.
1	Is there a way when a day care facility is fined, that there is a lid on how much they can be fined?
1	Would like to see in the safety plan, what do to if there is a lockdown or an intrusion.
1	SRS question: The parents have to give a 30 day notice if there is going to be a change. Without the 30 day notice, then SRS doesn't pay for it. So parent has to pay for it or they have to find another provider.
0	Training: I have gone to so many certification programs. They are like a repeat. They have the exact same classes with different names.
0	Will there be any changes in the future on qualifications to be a licensed home?
0	When the surveyor does come out, I have always had it in the basement without a bathroom. Got written up because the sink was not downstairs. I have been going upstairs to clean my hands. Telling us the changing table needs to be upstairs with the sink.
0	Part of the attitude from the surveyor is related to attitude of provider. "I need help from you" versus putting up a wall. Building the relationship has to come from both sides. The stress level is very high when this is going on.
0	Question: Why do I have to count my own kids in my ratio like when school is out or they come home for awhile?
	(added after the session) Concerned that if we don't have degree but have years of experience, shouldn't this count as much as a degree in any star rating system?