



Kathleen Sebelius, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

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Division of Health



Kansas Child Care in the 21st Century Listening Tour

Location: Salina, Kansas
Date: October 29, 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 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 
24	Look at increased funding to provide more surveyors. Each covers a large number of facilities. Would like to have surveyors be more of a resource...spend more time with us visiting about issues.
21	If we had public funding for public schools, why not public funding for the pre-school years...the most critical? These infants need to be held and to have relationships so we need funding.
15	I have been both licensed and registered. Parents and providers need to decide when a child is too old for a crib or playpen. 18 months is too young for some children not to be in a playpen. Several years ago I had a 20 month year old that was too immature to be out of a crib. The mother wanted him in the crib. The crib mattress was the same size as the youth bed. Should be up to the parent and child care provider depending on the child.
14	Would like to see us strengthen the pre-service training before we give permanent licenses. There should be a good solid 30 to 40 hours or pre-service. (A set of training modules for each of the competencies that you would complete first.)

Votes	 Comments 
13	The registered home providers should have to have some kind of yearly safety inspection like licensed providers. Realize this would put more work on surveyors but why should they be exempt. (For me, I was licensed for years and now I'm registered. Why should I have to keep getting annual inspections? If a new person on the block, then "yes" you should have to be inspected.)
9	The compensation, like the WAGES and TEACH programs are very good (these are higher level trainings). The R & R has been a very reputable place to get training.
8	SRS question: I've been receiving \$1.71/hour for as long as I can remember. Why hasn't this been increased?
8	Have heard a lot of providers complaining about one surveyor coming in and saying one thing and then another surveyor coming in saying another thing. Need consistency and more specifics. i.e. railing downstairs...what kind of railing do we need? How tall?
8	Need clarification on what the state calls "supervision." In a center, a teacher cannot even go to the bathroom with having someone else come into the room.
8	Would like to see the committee go through the regulations, as you change them, more clearer define them. For example, If I have to have ground cover, how deep does it need to be? There are a number of things that are left up to guessing. (I don't have any climbing toys because I'm not sure what is required. I've heard many different things on this.)
8	The number of children we get based on age group should be looked at. Would like to see splitting up the toddler group. Say 2 -3 year old toddler. 4 – 5 age pre-school. There is such a huge range of abilities in the 2 – 5 age group.
7	15 hours of training before you start up is not enough. Even every year, 5 – 6 hours is just wrong. We should require 25 – 30 hours.
7	28 years in day care...Once children are 5, they are age 5. Don't wait for a specific date. Need to move when they turn 5.
6	Would there be a way to make the regs from SRS, food program and child care more cohesive? This would save us a lot of grief. i.e. in the food program, infants go up to 12 months.
6	Mom and I have a group day care home together. At one time we can be licensed for 12 with the two of us. One of us can be licensed for 10. Why is this the case since two incomes have to come off of this? Is it because after so many kids it is considered a group home? (Sometimes it is Fire Marshal code)
6	Enjoy the Excel Program. This was the best training. Had my Resource and referral person come in. Do more of this. Need more funding for this.
6	Need clarification: When they go out in your backyard to look for dangers, what are they looking for? What is considered dangerous? For example, I was out in the backyard with the kids raking and playing with leaves. Leaned the rake against the fence to take the children in for their nap. They went in the backyard and saw the leaf rake leaning against the house and that was dangerous. To me this wasn't dangerous. It is very frustrating to us to not know what they are looking for.
6	Before and after school. Talking about capacity. It is very hard for parents to find places for them to go. If we could add one to two more children before and after school (say 12 before and after school). Talking about 1 st through 5 th graders that don't take as much care as the younger children.
5	Infants require the cuddling, bonding and nurturing. The more kids you have, there is also a safety issue. How is one person going to get them all out?
5	New teachers have to do the 12.5 hours. Think this is a waste of time. Would prefer to have them watch me rather than go somewhere else.
4	Would like to see enforcements become public so parents can use this information in making their decisions on where to go.

Votes	 Comments 
4	Been in day care about 3 years. Would have found it very helpful to have a sort of mentoring program. Perhaps not as an option. I didn't know anyone when I started. It would have been helpful to have someone say, "This would be a better way to do this." Would have liked to have help interpreting the regulations.
4	There is nothing in the regulations about service animals. Service animal is not a pet. My daughter is blind and we have a service animal in the house. If I took a child that was disabled that has a service animal, that dog would have to come with that child.
4	If an infant takes up 2 slots, why couldn't a 5 th or 6 th grader take up a ½ spot?
4	Training. Some of us have been doing this a long time. We have trouble getting higher level training. Sometimes it is available on-line with reputable instructors. State refuses to recognize these trainings.
4	We know when you have different surveyors they interpret it a different ways. It would be really beneficial to have it all spelled out so surveyors would say the same thing. Be sure and let us know as well about what is going on.
3	We are NAEYC accredited. Under each requirement they list what meets this. If these regulations would do the same thing, this would provide clarity.
3	Infant care is hard to get in Salina. Could we just add one more child for age 3 and up so we could take one more infant. Perhaps do this for established day cares. This would help us take more infants.
3	We have heard for years about the importance of the early years. In a center we have a 1:3 ratio. I can't imagine in home day care to have 10 – 12 children that includes infants and toddlers how to keep up with more than just diapers and feeding.
3	We are now required to have 5 credit hours. Would like to see this increased to 10.
3	On the license and register that parents get to find day care that should not be on the list. I know people on there that have committed crimes or have other problems. Their names don't seem to come off the list quickly. How long does it take?
3	Would like to have a strong relationship between the provider and the surveyor so we are all on the same page.
3	Agree it should be more of a partnership with the surveyor. Have them come twice rather than just once a year. Don't want to feel like the "bad guy is coming." Would be nice if they were there to help you rather than write you up. For example, not all babies will sleep during the designated nap time. If this happens, we get written up for having them in a bouncy seat during nap time even though the infant wasn't sleeping. Also, you have to have all the dishes done within one hour of eating. Your time is actually better getting the kids settled after eating rather than washing the dishes. (You just have to have your dishes in the sink soaking.)
2	I already have my early childhood degree, should I still have to be required to get 25 – 30 hours? (Perhaps require 30 hours over a two year period of time) Plus I'm trying to raise my own 4 children. Take into consideration those people that already have a degree.
1	If they do up the numbers in home day cares, perhaps require an assistant.
1	Do they have some type of deal where you can go on-line and chat with other day care providers about ideas? i.e. I have no Christmas ideas. (Several of the local Resource and Referral Agencies now have the ability to host chats. Just let them know you would like one in your area. There are also list serves you can get on. Eceol, Reggio are a couple of these.)
1	Clarification on others parts of the house not used for day care. When they check there, what are they looking for?

Votes	 Comments 
1	As a provider, you also have to have the attitude that you want to learn and that this is a growth opportunity. Don't just view it as "they are out to get us."
1	On the ratios: In Dickinson County our kindergarteners go to school all day so the most we can have are 7 children (without infants). Would like to see that number changed a bit. Perhaps 7 children with 1 infant. Need to think about our income but also want our children to be safe.
1	When we hire a new staff person. We take on the financial responsibility to have them in the center for 3 full days to learn the routine and meet the parents and meet the kids before responsible for any child. This greatly reduced child turnover.
0	When my children were 4 th through 6 th grade, they used to help with the children in care. I have three infants in my home day care. The 4 year olds I have want to help with the infants. The 9 – 10 year olds will help with the cuddling and holding with the infants when they get home from school.
0	There is such a wide range between providers: from master to bachelor to associate to no higher level degree.
0	On the training, you have to renew your CPR every year. Is there some way that there could be a certain time of year when everyone could go to get their CPR training? (Should say on your CPR card).