

## **Workgroup #3: Quality Rating and Improvement, Curriculum and Tiered Reimbursement**

### **Meetings:**

- September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 2 pm at First 5, CA, Sacramento, CA
- October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 3 pm at the same location

### **Chairs:**

- Giannina Perez, Children Now
- Meera Mani, Preschool California
- Ginger Swigart, CAEYC

### **Overarching Policy Questions:**

- What would a broadly acceptable and effective quality rating and improvement /tiered reimbursement system look like?
- Assuming that we will aim to enrich CDE's Title 5 programs as one element of this policy work, how can we also enrich Head Start, Title 22 centers, licensed family childcare homes and licensed-exempt providers, where many children are enrolled?
- Can we include these programs in the QRIS system on a voluntary basis, permitting individual providers to opt in or not? Should we simply require all programs to be covered by QRIS?
- By what metrics would we define "high quality care and education"?

### **How the Workgroup Addressed the Policy Questions:**

In the first meeting, the workgroup reviewed the state and national landscape of QRIS systems and discussed how their work could fit in with the advisory committee on quality set up by S.B. 1629. The group reviewed elements of QRIS systems nationally as well as examples of local California systems (Orange County, LAUP, LA County, PoP programs). They then discussed the state of infants and toddlers in a QRIS and what can be learned from other systems. The group then divided into subgroups to brainstorm elements of a QRIS system in California.

In the second meeting, the group reviewed California's fiscal and policy landscape, considered the recommendations of the Workforce Development group with regard to the inclusion of compensation within a California QRIS and revisited the elements of a QRIS system that had been identified in the previous meeting. The group discussed each element briefly and voted on whether there was agreement that it should be included in a system for California. The following elements were all agreed upon in general, with the details to be discussed further at a subsequent meeting:

- Tiered reimbursement

- Licensing compliance history
- Teacher/provider education and staff development
- Compensation and benefits
- Learning environment instructional support for learning
- Linguistically, culturally, and developmentally appropriate practices
- Inclusion practices (developmental screenings and referral)
- Facilities
- Family involvement
- Continuous quality improvement (data collection on programs and child progress as well as teacher progress)

The group then reviewed how other states with a QRIS implemented some of the elements identified above. Finally, the group discussed four issues pertaining to a QRIS in California:

- Who should a QRIS include?
- What do we want to measure?
- How should it be implemented?
- What should be the incentives for quality?

These discussions were meant to be introductory, and all questions will be returned to at a later meeting. The meeting closed with a presentation by the Legislative Analyst Office on preliminary recommendations they have on a quality improvement plan in California.

**Bike Rack Issues** - *The following issues the group will return to at a future meeting:*

The workgroup will return to all of the elements identified in previous meetings to discuss and come to consensus on the details of each element and how it could be implemented in California. In particular, the issues of a voluntary v. mandatory system and the scope of the system (0-13 v. 0-5) will be discussed in more detail.

**Additional Needs Going Forward:**

- Side by side comparison of the state's examined already in a concise document for better comparison and reference by the group.
- Report out at the next meeting on the CCDF planning meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>
- Analysis of State QRIS Systems and their Recognition of Diversity Issues: Race, Language and Culture

**Next Steps:**

- The next meeting for this workgroup will take place in early January, 2009. The specific date will be set by using a survey sent out to the workgroup members.
- Issues to cover at future meetings include: what to include and how to measure it in a QRIS.