

Workgroup #2: Critical Issues within the Existing System Progress Report: January 30th, 2009

Meetings:

- October 1st, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm: UC Center, Sacramento, CA
- December 19th, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm: USC Capitol Center, Sacramento, CA
- January 14th, 2009 from 2 pm to 4 pm: phone conference

Chairs:

- Nina Buthee, CCDA
- Debby Armstrong, First 5, San Mateo

Initial Recommendations:

Licensing

- The ultimate goal should be to have all California children in care that meets basic health and safety standards.
- Annual Unannounced Visits
- Expand the Ombudsman program to provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to providers
- Increase training in the pre-licensing process; increase funding to provide more frequent orientations for providers
- Require trustlining and basic safety training to aunts and uncles; Incorporate safety training and outreach to license exempt providers into a QRIS
- Study the possibility of including CDE/CDD in the licensing process to utilize additional expert staff to conduct licensing reviews and visits. Build (or expand) a web-based licensing system so input can be provided by an authorized set of qualified staff.
- Study the possibility of streamlining and decentralizing the licensing system to utilize the expertise and additional manpower of local agencies to conduct licensing reviews and visits.

Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)

- Study the CEL to evaluate:
 - How efficient it is: in comparison to the previous system
 - How effective it is: Is it working to make sure that the neediest children are getting access to programs?
 - Whether the requirements and data gathering is consistent across different counties and regions of the state
 - Whether it is an accurate data source capturing the actual number of children who are eligible for a program but not yet receiving services.

CDE Resources

- Increase funding for comprehensive training and technical assistance for providers in budgeting, accounting and other fiscal issues
- Provide funding for peer training for providers
- Incorporate provider fiscal training into a QRIS
- Provide adequate funding in order to implement a QRIS, both at the CDE level and at the provider level

Streamlining Funding Processes and Procedures

- Explore and allow for increased flexibilities and procedures, both on the contract level and at the CDE level, of new funds so that unused funds from one program may be transferred to a different program.
- Evaluate the impact of AB 2759 to help identify what policy interventions are still needed to increase efficiency and streamlining.

Subsidies, Fees and Reimbursement Rates

- Raise infant/toddler reimbursement rates to match the actual cost of care.
- Raise the reimbursement rate for full day care so that it matches the actual cost of care and does not disincentivize providers from providing full day care for children.
- Combine the RMR and SRR to reflect the actual annual increase in local cost of living
- The new combined reimbursement rate should be incorporate into a QRIS that rewards providers, including license exempt providers, for quality care

Priorities for Recommendations:

1. Licensing
2. License exempt support: *connected to a QRIS*
3. Reimbursement Rates
4. CDE resources/streamlining funding processes and procedures
5. Wrap around care: *incorporated in the CDE resources and reimbursement rate sections above*
6. CEL

Recommendations to the QRIS Workgroup:

- License exempt providers should be included in a QRIS; Those providers who participate in basic safety training and trustling should be supported and incentivized.
- Fiscal training on accounting, budgeting and blending and braiding should be incorporated into a QRIS; Those providers who receive training in these areas should be supported and incentivized
- The reimbursement rate should be raised and simplified and should be tied to a QRIS to support and incentivize all providers to increase their quality of care.
- Include funding for programmatic and administrative technical support for providers and for CDE in a QRIS

Bike Rack Issues for Future Discussion:

- License exempt care
- Reducing unspent funds
- Wrap around care
- Prioritizing recommendations within each sub-section