

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

Water Cooler Conference: March 25th, 2009

Meetings:

- September 19th, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm at First 5, CA, Sacramento, CA
- October 30th, 2008 from 10 am to 3 pm at First 5, CA, Sacramento, CA
- January 22nd, 2009 from 10 am to 2:30 pm at Crystal Stairs, Los Angeles, CA

Chairs:

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

Ultimate Goal:

Incentivize higher quality care for all California children, desirable working conditions for workforce, and information for families.

Guiding Principles:

1. A California Quality Rating and Improvement System must build upon and integrate as appropriate quality projects/programs currently underway in the State. A California Quality Rating and Improvement System must be funded to ensure:
 - a. High quality care and early learning experiences for children.
 - b. Desirable working conditions for the workforce.
 - c. The communication of timely and meaningful information for parents/guardians and consumers.
2. A California Quality Rating and Improvement System must include funding for reform of Community Care Licensing. Such reform would include such things as increased inspections to ensure high standards of health and safety practices.
3. A California Quality Rating and Improvement System must include elements that:
 - a. Support and create opportunities for teachers/providers who are dual language learners.
 - b. Support and promote competencies for teachers/providers working with children who are dual language learners.
4. A California Quality Rating and Improvement System must include elements that support and create opportunities for children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds as well as children with disabilities and special needs.
5. A California Quality Rating and Improvement System will improve the quality of centers and family childcare homes by ensuring the measurement and inclusion of program structure/elements such as:
 - a. Indoor and outdoor environmental quality.
 - b. Program Administration.
 - c. Family Involvement.
 - d. Teacher/Provider-child Interactions.
 - e. Cultural, linguistic, and special needs responsiveness.
 - f. Condition of Facilities/Structure.



- g. Licensing and compliance history.
- h. Teacher/Provider education.
- i. Developmental Screenings and a response and referral process.
- j. Age- and Developmentally-Appropriate Curriculum.
- k. Continuous Quality Improvement.
- l. Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity.

Initial Recommendations:

Scope of a QRIS – Age:

1. California should create a statewide Quality Rating and Improvement System for all programs and providers serving children birth to five.
2. This Quality Rating and Improvement System should then be expanded to include all children birth to 13.
3. In order to successfully achieve this vision a phase in structure should be developed.

Scope of a QRIS– Program Types Included:

1. California should create a Quality Rating and Improvement System that is inclusive of, and mandatory for, **all licensed (Title 5 and Title 22)** centers and family childcare providers.
2. In addition to the licensed providers, **an entry point should be created for license-exempt providers that are receiving public subsidies.**
3. All providers, including both licensed and license-exempt providers, receiving public subsidies, should receive incentives and support to improve the quality of the care they provide to children and families.

Tiered Reimbursement:

1. California should create a tiered reimbursement/incentive structure linked to a Quality Rating and Improvement System.
2. This tiered reimbursement/incentive structure should be designed to improve the salaries and benefits of family childcare providers and center staff.
3. The tiered reimbursement/incentive structure should additionally include, but not be limited to technical assistance, on site coaching, management and fiscal support, and grants or a loan program to continue educational opportunities.

Cultural/Linguistic Inclusion:

1. California should create a Quality Rating and Improvement System in which home language, racial, ethnic and cultural competencies are integral to all measures, standards, training, curriculum, and incentives that are developed.

Special Needs Inclusion:

1. California should create a Quality Rating and Improvement System in which measures, standards, training, curriculum, and incentives reflect the early identification and inclusion of children with special needs.

Issues for Future Discussion:

2. QRIS purpose statement.
3. Elements to be measured in a QRIS and how they should be measured.
4. Implementation/phase-in process.
5. Define entry point for License-exempt.
6. Consumer outreach component.

