Examining Family Child Care Participation in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Rena Hallam, Ph.D., PI
Martha Buell, Ph.D., Co-PI
Myae Han, Ph.D., Co-PI
Kaitlin Bargreen, Ph.D., Co-PI
Alison Hooper, M.S.
Christine Skrobot, B.A.

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Education
University of Delaware

Beth Rous, Ed.D.
Mary Howard, M.A.
University of Kentucky
Research Questions

- What are licensed family child care perspectives on QRIS participation?
- Why do non-participants choose not to engage in QRIS?
- Why do participants join?
- What benefits and challenges do participants experience?
Methods

- Nine focus groups across both states
- N = 41 (21 participants and 20 non-participants)
- Participants randomly selected stratified by geographic region (rural/urban)
- Verbatim transcriptions and analyzed using grounded theory methodology; Coded to consensus by two researchers.
Why Do Participators Join QRIS?

- Financial Resources
- Professional and personal growth
What Do Some FCC Providers Choose Not to Join?

- Agency Overload
- Unreasonable expectations and mandates
- No Clear Benefits
- Timing
What Benefits do Family Child Care Report from QRIS Participation?

- Professional Practice
  - Changes in Quality
  - Professionalism
  - Validation – outside entities and families

- QRIS Supports
  - Money and Resources
  - TA Support
What Challenges to FCC Report?

- “Going it Alone”
- Systems Issues
- QRIS Standards
Policy and Practice Recommendations

- Thoughts on increasing participation
  - Simple, clear messages via trusted and existing networks
  - Coordination of QRIS activities with other relevant state/regional services (licensing, USDA, existing TA networks)
  - Giving providers some choice/control
- Thoughts on maintaining engagement
  - QRIS as a means for building the professional identities of family child care providers
  - Clear and visible links between QRIS Participation and QI support
  - Financial incentives can be helpful
Discussion

- Research Focus: What are the differences and similarities among FCC providers you research or include in your QI?

- Practice/Policy Focus: How can we better align QI across programs with FCC provider characteristics? What else do we need to know to be more effective in this alignment?