Supporting Family Choices in Home-Based Care: The Kansas Approach

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Types of Child Care Providers in Kansas

- Centers
- Family Child Care Providers
- Group Homes
- Relative Providers
- In-Home Providers
Licensing Regulations in Kansas

- **Licensed Providers**
  - Centers
  - Family Child Care Homes
  - Group Homes

- **Registered Providers**
  - Family Child Care Homes

- **Legally Exempt Providers**
  - Relative Providers
  - In-Home Providers
  - Some School Based Programs
Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

Family care is legal if it meets relative definition:
1. Grandmother
2. Sibling
3. Aunt/uncle
4. Relationship can be through marriage, blood, or court decree to the child.

Friend and neighbor care is considered illegal care unless total care hours provided do not exceed 20 hours per week.

Care provided in the child’s home is legal.
Child Care Subsidy Provider Types

- Child Care Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
  - Licensed Homes
  - Registered Homes
- Group Homes
- Relative Care
- In-Home Care
Child Care Subsidy Providers

Rates

- Family child care homes generally receive less than centers based on market study
- Registered child care home rates set at 65% of family child care home rates
- Relative child care providers have lowest rates overall
- In-home child care rate is $1.72 per hour (minimum wage if caring for three children)
Child Care Subsidy Providers

Requirements

- Enroll with Child Care Assistance Program
- Be able to receive payments electronically
- Pass child abuse registry check and criminal background check
- Complete contract with EBT contractor

Parents using in-home providers are required to contact IRS about their employer responsibility and obtain FEIN
Support for Home-Based Child Care

- **Training**
  - Community Based
  - Resource and Referral Agencies

- **Infant Toddler Specialist Project**
  - Technical assistance for providers serving infants and toddlers

- **T.E.A.C.H.**
  - Scholarships to earn AA or BA

- **WAGE$**
  - Bonuses for level of education achieved
Support for Home-Based Child Care

Kansas Quality Rating System (KQRS)
- Preparation for rating visit
- Initial rating
- Quality Improvement Plan
- Coaching to meet plan goals
- Funds available for program enhancements
- Rating
Support For Home-Based Child Care

- Kansas Early Head Start
  - Partner with family child care
  - Pay enhanced rates
  - Support provider obtaining CDA
  - Provide training and technical assistance
  - Pay for substitute care in some instances
  - Pay for program enhancements
Support For Home-Based Child Care

Kansas Pre-Kindergarten Pilots

- Includes school sites, Head Start Programs, child care centers and family child care homes
- Requires collaboration among community child care sites
- Requires KQRS rating of ‘3’
- Requires AA in Early Childhood for lead teachers
- Provides enhanced rates for participating providers
EBT Payment System

- Encourages provider professionalism
  - Requires contracts with parents
  - Requires provider record-keeping
- Allows provider to set rates and payment terms
  - Payments made in compliance with parent/provider contract
  - Not restricted to subsidy payment rates
- Provides funds for up-front payment
- Allows provider to select payment method
  - Point of Sale device (POS)
  - Automated Response Unit (ARU)
Relative Provider Pilot Project

- Dedicated $75,000 funding for two pilots
- Goal is model that can be replicated statewide
- Using research based methods for engaging participants
- Offering training, technical assistance, support groups, incentives for providers
- Providers to assist in determining topics to be covered
- Pre and post assessments to determine change in practice
Upcoming Initiatives

- **EHS Family Support Model Pilots**
  - Allow EHS Programs using home based model to work with unregulated caregivers as “extended family”

- **Economic Impact Study**
  - Update of Child Care Industry completed in 2003
  - Includes unregulated providers
  - To be released late 2007

- **Business Development Center**
  - Funding proposal for SFY 2009
  - Focus is to provide business training for child care providers
Challenges

Access for non-English speaking providers

- Availability of translated child care licensing forms
- Availability of training sessions in other than English
- Range of language needs in Kansas
  - Spanish, Somali, Laos, Vietnamese, Hmong, Low German, Arabic, Farsi, Russian, Swahili
Challenges

- Integration with Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan
- Implementation of Early Learning Guidelines across provider groups
- Evaluation and monitoring
Questions???

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