

*Family Child Care Task Force
Duty #8 Workgroup
Recommendations*

Members

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- ▶ Rep. Lisa Demuth
- ▶ Cyndi Cunningham
- ▶ DHS: Barb Wagner

Duty #8

Consider methods to improve access to and understanding of the rules and statutes governing family child care providers.

Family Child Care Rules & Statutes

- ▶ Rule 9502
- ▶ Chapter 245A
- ▶ 245C
- ▶ 626.556

Access

Providing Info

- ▶ Need uniform way of providing info
- ▶ Most info should come directly from DHS
 - Counties can forward info
- ▶ Counties should provide county-specific info
 - Pop-up on county website about updates
 - User-friendly county websites
- ▶ Ensure info is up-to-date
 - ▶ Forms and links directly to DHS
 - ▶ Improve book of rules and statutes sold by the Minnesota Bookstore.
It's sold even when it's outdated (released in October each year).

Format

- ▶ Offer both paper and electronic options to ensure everyone receives the info
 - Gather and maintain an accurate list of every family child care provider with an email address.
 - DHS has worked to update the list; currently reaching 91%.
 - Allow providers to opt-in to paperless delivery
 - Postcard from DHS to existing providers with critical info

Different Languages

- ▶ Forms and information should be available in multiple languages or providers should have a resource available to them for translation.
 - Licensors have interpreters available for providers.
 - There are no current translations of statutes/rules on legislative website.

Communication About Changes

- ▶ Providers follow state rules and statutes.
- ▶ Info should come from DHS to eliminate 87+ different possible interpretations of each change.

Implementation Plans

- ▶ Implementation plans have been helpful.
- ▶ Developed by DHS Public Policy group
- ▶ Add providers to the implementation plan group.

Meetings with Stakeholders

- ▶ Critical to have long before legislation is introduced
- ▶ Ensure all providers are informed about them
- ▶ No last-minute language introductions (omnibus bills)
- ▶ Significant improvements have been made...but there is still work to be done

Understanding

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The word "Understanding" is written in a blue, cursive script font across the center of the image.

Ombudsperson

- ▶ Bill was introduced in 2018 & 2019
- ▶ Recommend reintroducing next session
- ▶ Position should not be in DHS
 - Independent person, clear answers
- ▶ Providers current relationship and progress with DHS should continue

Rules & Statutes

- ▶ Info in plain language: clear, understandable, and as brief as possible. Empower providers to go through the steps
- ▶ “Guide to Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider”
 - Good resource.
 - Needs some updates to reflect legislative changes in 2018-2019
 - Include a few providers, licensors, and DHS in annual review
- ▶ Consider summarizing each section of rules and statutes for providers concisely and clearly in one place
- ▶ Discuss codifying rule into statute or vice versa. Everything should be in one place.

Consistent Interpretations

- ▶ DHS has been meeting monthly with licensors to discuss this and other issues.
 - They're developing roundtable conversations, region by region, to discuss scenarios and interpretations to help them think about rule or statute in a different way.
- ▶ The "Ask DHS" form on DHS website needs to be anonymous, not require providers to list their licensor.
 - Add search function to form (like a typical support page) for common topics and link to rule/statute or previous answers given by DHS

Trainings About Rules & Statutes

- ▶ Develop trainings to help providers know how to read the rules & statutes, where to find info they need, & empower providers
- ▶ Encourage providers to read the rules and statutes, to understand that they are business owners who needs to read the rules and statutes and ask questions
- ▶ Should be in plain language, not based on interpretation
- ▶ Use [“Guide to Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider”](#)
- ▶ There are two DHS employees working on trainings about rules for centers
 - Asked why centers need this when there are almost 5x as many licensed family child care providers



Any Questions?