



Family Child Care Task Force Meeting 10

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

6:00pm to 9:00pm (CST)

Virtual meeting (WebEx)

Task Force Members Present: Mary Albert, Ariane Bromberg, Cyndi Cunningham, Representative Lisa Demuth, Erin Echternach, Heidi Hagel Braid, Elizabeth Harris, Stephanie Hogenson, Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Kim Leipold, Scott Marquardt, Kelly Martini, Ann McCully, Lanay Miller, Hollee Saville, Julie Seydel, JoAnn Smith, Representative Ami Wazlawik, Senator Melissa Wiklund, Reggie Wagner (DHS)

Task Force Members Absent: Samantha Chukuske, Dan Dorman, Erin Johnson-Balstad, Marit Woods

Presenters: Hollee Saville, Task Force member, family child care provider, presenting for Duty 8 work group

Task Force Consultants Present: Judy Plante, Lanterna Consulting; Jake Granholm, Management Analysis and Development (MAD)

Each Task Force member received the following:

- FCCTF September 22 meeting agenda
- Draft August Task Force meeting minutes (pending Task Force approval)
- Task Force meeting and work group timeline
- Motion for revising FCCTF member reimbursement policy and the revised policy text
- Duty #8 Work Group recommendations
- Duty #8 Work Group presentation
- Duty #4 Work Group recommendations
- Duty #4 Work Group presentation

Call to order and opening remarks

Co-chair Representative Wazlawik called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The meeting minutes were approved via voice vote with no opposition.

Task force business announcements

Representative Wazlawik led the task force through several business items. The topics included:

- Welcomed new task force member, Mary Albert, a family child care provider from the Twin Cities metro area
- Discussion of updated reimbursement policy for task force members.
 - The proposed motion: “The Family Child Care Task Force adopt the Revised Standards for Qualifying for Per Diem Payments as printed in this attachment [and as amended by the Task Force, if applicable] and that the Revised Standards be effective retroactively to August 1, 2020.”
 - The policy language would be updated to: *“Family Child Care Task Force Revised Standards for Qualifying for Per Diem Payments and for Child Care Reimbursement for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3: a) a day on which a Task Force member attends a Task Force meeting or a sub-group meeting constitutes a day spent on Task Force activities, for purposes of making daily ‘per diem’ payments to members of the Task Force. b) the Task Force authorizes the reimbursement of reasonable child care expenses that Task Force members incur as a result of time spent attending Task Force meetings or sub-group meetings, that the members would not have otherwise incurred. In this case, ‘time spent attending Task Force meetings’ includes time spent traveling to and from the meeting location.”*
 - A member asked if reimbursement for child care expenses includes hiring a substitute to care for children in the family child care program while the provider is in a task force meeting
 - The motion was tabled until more information could be gathered
- Updated Task Force timeline – the Duty #2 work group and the Duty #7 work group will present at the October 20th Task Force meeting
 - Duty #5 work group and Duty #6 work group will present on Oct. 27th

Judy Plante (Task Force facilitator) described the voting protocol that would be used for considering the work groups’ recommendations.

- The process: Hear from the a work group, discuss proposed recommendations among all members, test for general agreement (not formal vote) on individual recommendations, bundle recommendations with general agreement into one motion to put the recommendations into the draft Task Force report, and conduct a voice. Any recommendations that do not have general agreement will be brought back to discuss at later time.

Discussion #1

Hollie Saville (Task Force member) presented Duty #8 work group’s proposed recommendations. The recommendations were organized by legislative action, and recommendations for DHS, counties, and providers. Task Force members asked questions and provided comments after reviewing the recommendations.

Judy Plante tested for general agreement on the 21 proposed recommendations from the Duty #8 work group. Of the 21 proposed recommendations, 14 received general agreement and were grouped together. The proposed recommendations from the work group are in Appendix A on page 5. Co-Chair Wazlawik made a motion to approve the 14 recommendations to be included in the draft Task Force report. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Kiffmeyer.

The motion passed unanimously with 20 “yes” votes. The votes:

- Mary Albert: yes
- Ariane Bromberg: yes

- Samantha Chukuske: not present
- Cyndi Cunningham: yes
- Representative Lisa Demuth: yes
- Dan Dorman: not present
- Erin Echternach: not present for vote
- Heidi Hagel Braid: yes
- Elizabeth Harris: yes
- Stephanie Hogenson: yes
- Erin Johnson-Balstad: not present
- Senator Mary Kiffmeyer: yes
- Kim Leipold: yes
- Scott Marquardt: yes
- Kelly Martini: yes
- Ann McCully: yes
- Lanay Miller: yes
- Hollee Saville: yes
- Lauryn Schothorst: yes
- Julie Seydel: yes
- JoAnn Smith: yes
- Reggie Wagner: yes
- Representative Ami Wazlawik: yes
- Senator Melissa Wiklund: yes
- Marit Woods: not present

Following the vote, Task Force members discussed the recommendations that did not have general agreement. Discussion was tabled and may be revisited at another meeting.

Holley Saville made a motion to vote on the “Recommendations for DHS” (B3d in Appendix A on page 5) that says:

- “Consider summarizing each section of rule and statute in one place (possibly use the guide as a starting point) for existing providers. Info should be in plain language: clear, understandable, and as brief as possible. Empower providers to go through the steps.”

The motion was seconded by Julie Seydel.

The motion received seven “yes” votes and 13 “no” votes. The motion did not pass. The votes:

- Mary Albert: no
- Ariane Bromberg: no
- Samantha Chukuske: not present
- Cyndi Cunningham: no
- Representative Lisa Demuth: yes
- Dan Dorman: not present
- Erin Echternach not present
- Heidi Hagel Braid: no
- Elizabeth Harris: no
- Stephanie Hogenson: no

- Erin Johnson-Balstad: not present
- Senator Mary Kiffmeyer: yes
- Kim Leipold: no
- Scott Marquardt: yes
- Kelly Martini: no
- Ann McCully: no
- Lanay Miller: no
- Hollee Saville: yes
- Lauryn Schothorst: yes
- Julie Seydel: yes
- JoAnn Smith: yes
- Reggie Wagner: no
- Representative Ami Wazlawik: no
- Senator Melissa Wiklund: no
- Marit Woods: not present

Discussion #2

There was not time for the Duty 4 work group present. They will present at the next Task Force meeting.

Closing announcements and adjourn

Representative Wazlawik closed the meeting at 9:00pm and thanked members for their participation. The next meeting will be on October 20.

Appendix A: Proposed Duty 8 work group recommendations

Work group duty charge: Consider methods to improve access to and understanding of the rules and statutes governing family child care providers.	Status <i>(for use at FCCTF meeting)</i> :
A. Recommendations for LEGISLATIVE ACTION:	
A1. Ombudsperson bill should be reintroduced. The position should be independent and not in DHS. This should not replace providers' current relationship and progress with DHS.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
A2. Make the "Ask DHS" form on the DHS website anonymous and remove the requirement for providers to list their licenser.	No consensus. Did not advance.
A3. Codify rule into statute or vice versa. Everything should be in one place.	No consensus. Did not advance.
A4. Update the book of family child care rules and statutes in a timely manner and only sell updated copies.	Not applicable: Dept. of Administration Bookstore will no longer be printing the book.
B. Recommendations for DHS:	
B1. Communication	
B1a. Communication about rules, statutes, and state/federal regulations and any changes to them should (at least) come from DHS. Continue the implementation plans.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B1b. Offer both paper and electronic options to ensure everyone receives the info (allow providers to opt-in to paperless delivery or opt-in to printed delivery).	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B1c. Offer forms and info in multiple (most common) languages.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B1d. Maintain an accurate list of every family child care provider with an email address.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B1e. Send a postcard mailing from DHS to existing providers/provide for new providers with the most critical/commonly requested info.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.

B2. Provider Involvement	
B2a. Add family child care providers to the implementation plan group.	No consensus. Did not advance.
B2b. Offer meetings with stakeholders about any proposed legislation before the legislative session begins (no last-minute bill introductions). Inform all providers about these meetings.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B2c. Update the “Guide to Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider” to reflect legislative changes in the last few years. Include a few providers, licensors, and DHS in annual review.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B3. Rules and Statutes	
B3a. Make the “Ask DHS” form on the DHS website anonymous and do not require providers to list their licensor.	Duplicative. See recommendation A2
B3b. Add a search function to form (like a typical support page) for common topics and link to rule/statute or previous answers given by DHS. (NOTE: originally included as part of 3A).	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B3c. Work with providers and licensors to develop a plain language training to help providers learn how to access, read, and understand the rules and statutes.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
B3d. Consider summarizing each section of rule and statute in one place (possibly use the guide as a starting point) for existing providers. Info should be in plain language: clear, understandable, and as brief as possible. Empower providers to go through the steps.	Defeated in separate vote.
C. Recommendations for COUNTIES:	
C1. Forward communications from DHS and share county-specific info with providers.	No consensus. Did not advance.
C2. Place links to DHS forms and info to ensure it is up-to-date and to save time.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
C3. Maintain an accurate list of every family child care provider in the county with an email address.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.
C4. Possibly add a pop-up on the county “child care provider” page if there are any updates to rules, statutes, or forms.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.

D. Recommendations for PROVIDERS:	
D1. Providers need to be involved in family child care meetings, plans, hearings, etc.	Approved for inclusion in draft report.

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