Oklahoma Child Care Services

Interim Study – Liability Insurance
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- Lesli Blazer, Director

BA Business Administration

Ouachita Baptist University, 1984

MS Child Development

Oklahoma State University, 2003

Oklahoma Child Care Services

1994 - present

Child Care Licensing

The Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act

was enacted in 1963 and requires DHS to administer the licensing program.

Mission Statement

Oklahoma Child Care Services has the responsibility of assuring that Oklahoma's children and their parents have access to licensed, affordable, quality child care.

Oklahoma Child Care Services

- Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant agency for Oklahoma
- Manage Licensing and Professional Development
  - Child care assistance eligibility and facility contracting managed by OKDHS Family Support Services Division

Oklahoma Child Care Services

Two Primary Functions

Child Care Licensing

Professional Development

Child Care Licensing

- Ensures maintenance of minimum requirements
- Encourages & assists child care facilities toward high quality care
- Works for the development of accessible and affordable child care in the community

Responsibilities include:

- Accepting applications & recommending licensure
- Monitoring consulting with programs at least 3 times annually
- Investigating complaints
- Approving programs for Stars

Responsibilities include:

- Recommending revocation of license when facilities are unwilling or unable to meet or maintain requirements
- Maintaining a database for monitoring cases & parent referrals
- Being involved in community child care issues and public awareness activities

Types of Licensed Care

- Family Child Care Homes
- Large Family Child Care Homes
- Part-Day Child Care
- School-Age Programs
- Child Care Centers
- Residential Child Care
- Child Placing Agencies

Family Child Care Homes

A family home where care and supervision are provided for 7 or fewer children for part of the 24-hour day.

Over 1500 Homes

Large Family Child Care Homes

A residential family home which provides care and supervision for 8 to 12 children for part of the 24-hour day.

Over 900 large homes

Part-Day Child Care

A facility that provides care and supervision for children and operates for more than 15 and up to 30 hours per week.

Over 150 Part-Day Child Care Programs

School-Age Program

A program that operates more than 15 hours per week in which care and supervision are provided for school-age children.

Over 150 School-Age Programs

Child Care Centers

A facility that provides care and supervision for children and that operates for more than 30 hours per week.

Over 1700 Centers

Residential Child Care

A 24-hour residential facility where children live together with, or are supervised by, adults other than their parents or relatives.

125 Residential Facilities

Child Placing Agencies

A private agency that provides social services to children and their families for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in adoptive homes, foster homes, and independent living programs.

Over 60 Child Placing Agencies

Exemptions

- Care in a child's home
- Care by relatives
- Informal, occasional care
- Care by public or private schools for children 3 yrs and older during typical school hours
- Programs operating less than 15 hrs per week
- Programs not designed or intended for child care

Child Care Advisory Committee:

- 24 members represent licensed facilities, agencies and the community
- Subcommittees draft new and revised requirements
- True partnership with the child care communities that we monitor

Licensing Staff

- 106 field staff located throughout the state
- 21 supervisors
- 5 Regional Program Managers
- 5 residential and agency licensing staff
- Average caseload of 45

Demarion's Law

- 10 O.S. Chapter 18, Section 404.2-404.3
- Added by Oklahoma State Legislature during 2008 session, effective 11/1/08
- Amended during 2010 session, effective 11/1/10
- Requires licensed facilities to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage of $200,000
- If the facility is unable to obtain liability insurance they must:
  - Post a notice to parents
  - Notify the Department

Compliance

Centers

– Have insurance	1,571	92%
– Exception	139	8%

Homes

- Have Insurance	933	37%
- Exception	1,569	63%

Oklahoma Licensing

- National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
  - 2011 Report Card on 10 research-based standards for health and safety

Oklahoma is ranked number two behind Department of Defense

Other States

- Require Liability Insurance
  - Family Child Care Homes — 6 states
  - Large Family Child Care Homes — 8 states
  - Child Care Centers — 23 states

Reaching
For The
Stars
CCS

Reaching for the Stars

- First state in the nation to implement a tiered reimbursement system
- Used as a model by other states in the implementation of their systems

Goals of the Stars Program

- ★ Provide a system whereby parents can evaluate the quality of child care programs
- ★ Improve the quality of child care by increasing the competence of teachers
- ★ Raise the Department's subsidy reimbursement rate, resulting in more slots for children whose families are receiving child care assistance

Professional Development

- Center for Early Childhood Professional Development
- REWARD/Registry
- Scholars
- Warmline, Child Care Consultation
- Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral

Oklahoma Child Care Services

"Children are our most valuable resource"

http://www.okdhs.org/divisionsoffices/visd/dcc