

EARLY CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **What is being done to encourage quality improvement among child care providers in the subsidized child care system?**

What are we doing in this area: Initiatives, Projects and Funding including:

- CCDF (Child Care Development Fund) Voucher Dollar provider eligibility State Regulations for centers and homes
- Non Formal CDA(Child Development Accreditation)
- Facility Based Accreditation Project
- CCRR (Child Care Resource and Referral) Approved Trainings
- ICC HCP (Indiana Child Care Health Consultant Program)
- Reports from schools which focus on progress of skills ECSE (Early Childhood Special ED) assessment (ISTAR) for all children
- Project Braintree – focus is Science and Math and expanding to literacy funded by Indiana Child Care Fund (ICCF).
- CAPE (Community Activities to Promote Education) Grants
- Tiered Reimbursements for child care providers
- Better Baby Care –program of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- CCAFP (Child Care and Adult Food Program) – subsidized nutritious meals for low income children
- IPICC – Efforts to increase the availability of inclusive child care.
- Higher Education Conferences
- IAEYC (Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference
- United Way Capital \$

(Limited Sites)

NLC (National League of Cities

Success by Six -

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback)?

Group Consensus: Criteria for measuring success listed here is so dynamic and broad that it presents challenges to providing definitive answers as to what is working well. Group is in agreement that measures of success are critical however; methodologies for assessing success are not currently standardized.

- - Additional Comments:

- The difference between customer feedback and performance measures is so great that we see difficulty in answering this question.
- Group will send any data they have to Facilitator
- Currently used measures are not congruent with federally mandated measures.

What are the challenges?

- Defining the standards for relative care as it relates to subsidized care.
- Funding Streams limit cohesiveness
- Programs approach is often determined by the funding
- Difference in quality standards between different settings
- Complexity of Issues
- Complexity of the field

• What is being done to encourage providers of family day care or relative care to provide high quality care?

What are we doing in this area?

Provider Networks – one of many informal networks that provide education and support to child care providers

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What are the challenges?

- Identification - Who are these providers
- Perception that this is a private business and efforts to support high quality care are seen as an invasion.
- Definition of the multiple types of arrangements in care for children

Failure to separate “relative care” from the definition as it has a very different perspective.

- **What is being done to develop or strengthen a network of child care health consultants?**

What are we doing in this area?

- Bureau of Child Development provides CCDF (Child Care Development Fund) Quality dollars – funneled through the Indiana State Department of Health, Maternal Child Health.
- Collaboration between state agencies to market the program
- Semi Annual Health Consultant training provided to individuals in agencies and communities
- ICCHP currently employs 5 regional health consultants and a program director

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• What is being done to strengthen health and safety regulations for child care providers?

- What are we doing in this area?
- Increased incorporation of National Health and Safety Standards and revisions of child care regulations.
- Provision of “Stepping Stones” – National Health and Safety Standards to all legislators serving on committees addressing child care
- Provision of testimony by Healthy Child Care Indiana Initiative at public hearings
- Inclusion of Health Child Care Indiana Project Coordinator on rules revision committees
- Involvement of Child Care Advocates with the Board for the coordination of child care regulations

What is working well about it? How do we know this (i.e. do we have performance measures, evaluations, customer feedback)?

Empirical research shows dramatic increase in the number of health and safety standards included in adopted and proposed child care regulation.

What are the challenges?

- Provide supports to meet the increased demands
- Provision of financial support to meet increased health and safety standards
- Cost of implementing health and safety related items is costly
- requirements around health and safety differ across child care settings
- Indiana's child care classifications are not aligned with the National Health and Safety Standards.
- Theoretical vs. practical application of recommendations.

• What is being done to train child care health consultants in handling mental health and/or behavioral issues?

What are we doing in this area?

Child Care Health Consultant Program is researching community resources
CCHCP Partnerships with Agencies and organizations addressing said issues

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What are the challenges?

- More serious issues at earlier ages
- More complex issues
- There aren't enough resources to refer families to
- Lack of training of teachers and professionals on how to handle social emotional issues.

- **What is being done to ensure that childcare providers know how and when to make referrals into the early intervention system?**

Group concerned that Early Childhood Special Education is not included here -

What are we doing in this area?

- Orientation training that people receive through IPICC provides information on Early Intervention
- Child Care Health Consultants are familiar with the early intervention system
- State level transition initiative to help with issues relating to transition from early intervention to special education
- Products which show developmental milestones are being distributed to child care providers
- Accreditation of child care providers supports knowledge of early intervention
- CDA supports working knowledge of early intervention

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What are the challenges?

- Identification of referral point both in Early Intervention and Special Education
- Family recognition of issues
- Transience of system
- Turnover in providers requires constant re-education
- Ability of system to respond to referrals
- Inadequate plans (IEP and IFSP)
- Differences between early intervention and special education. Difficult for providers and families to understand

- **What is being done to ensure that the early intervention system collaborates with childcare providers to ensure the provision of appropriate care for children receiving early intervention?**

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- Orientation training that people receive through IPICC provides information on Early Intervention
- Child Care Health Consultants are familiar with the early intervention system
- State level transition initiative to help with issues relating to transition from early intervention to special education
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What are the challenges?

- Suggested intervention is difficult to translate into a child care setting
- Identification of referral point both in Early Intervention and Special Education
- Family recognition of issues
- Transience of system
- Turnover in providers requires constant re-education
- Ability of system to respond to referrals
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- **What is being done to ensure that child care serves as an access point for health insurance and medical homes?**

What are we doing in this area?

- ICCHP – Promoting Hoosier Healthwise
- Entities receiving CCDF Contract money from state are obliged to support Medical Home initiative

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What are the challenges?

- Ability to secure services for children who are enrolled in Hoosier Healthwise
- Loss of Federal Money provided to state to enroll children in Hoosier Healthwise
- Communication between program coordinators and child care field
- Changing requirements of programs offered
- Lack of Health Service Providers that are accepting children on Hoosier Healthwise and CHIP.