

****ALERT!** Important Updates!**

The new Family Child Care Home Regulations are out, and trainings are being held around the state for providers. The Power Point presentation and forms for these trainings are on the I-drive.

These FCCH forms are also available on the I-drive:

- * CORE indicator
- * Consultation form
- * Children's records form
- * Index to the new rules
- * Temporary Flexibility Request form

Jim Koch has sent out the phone calendar for March. Beginning April 1st, phone duty days will be assigned and each specialist will take the same day each month. Only one day of duty will be required rather than two, however.

The caseloads have been revised and by now everyone should have their new caseloads transferred in Trails.

A Few Thoughts as I Leave the Division

Most of you know how much I enjoy history and of the project I did on the history of licensing. Licensing began in this country and in Colorado to protect children from harm in out of home placements. Because some of the conditions in which children were cared were not safe, standards for fire, health, and the safety and welfare of children were put into place.

Colorado has a long history of licensing child care facilities. The original Child Care Act that was passed in 1963 required the licensing of all the facilities we currently license. We are so far ahead of many states.

Licensing in Colorado was built on the philosophy that in order to protect children, providers and licensing must work together. Neither of us alone can do it. It is the relationship and partnership with the providers that is so important.

Many people ask why we have to have rules and cannot just make recommendations. Of course the answer is that we have no authority to make facilities follow recommendations. But the important thing to remember when visiting any type of child care facility for any reason is that we are never ever there to find something wrong. We should always be going out to a facility with the attitude of how can I help this facility to be a better facility for the children's sake. Without respect and a partnership and relationship with the provider, licensing is not effective and only creates an adversarial relationship, which never helps children.

One of the things I have most enjoyed in my 27 years with licensing is the relationship and partnership I have developed with all types of child care facilities. I have found that there is no conflict between respecting and having a partnership with the director of a facility and still inspecting the facility and recording violations.

The one value that is the most important to me and one I hope all of you and Colorado will always follow is that you cannot protect children by yourself. A licensing visit without respect and partnership with the provider is worthless and does not protect children. We should never visit a child care facility just to "inspect" the facility. If we go in with that attitude, we have already failed.

I have truly loved knowing and working with all of you. I have enormous respect for you as people and as staff. I know you all are committed to what is best for children. The people in this Division are like a second family to me. Although I will not miss the work, I will miss all of you. ~ Dana Andrews

We'll miss you, Dana!

Newsletter Note: We need newsletter contributors! If you have a newsworthy item, important info, or valuable knowledge, please send it to me for upcoming newsletters. Thanks! ~Lily Friend-Grover

New FCCH Rules can be obtained at the Secretary of State Website:

- 1.) www.sos.state.co.us/CCR
- 2.) Click on Browse the CCR by Rule Number
- 3.) Click on 2500, Department of Human Services
- 4.) Click on 2509, Social Service Rules
- 5.) Click on 12 CCR 2509-8 Rules Manual Volume7, Child Care Facility Licensing
- 6.) Click on 7.707 Rules Regulating Family Child Care Homes (Rev. eff. 1/1/10)

Respect - Part 3

In the last month, reflect on whether you did your licensing visits the same way you always have, or did you think about and incorporate respect into your visits? Did you show respect to others the way you wanted it shown to you? Were you conscious of showing respect to your peers and providers as professionals? In this article I am going to address some of the intangibles during a visit. Remember intangibles during a licensing visit might include licensing rules or procedures that are hard to define or to describe to the provider or to help the provider understand the rationale for the rule; routines by the licensing worker that are a requirement of a licensing visit, but may not be perceived as necessary by the provider; may actually be perceived as intruding upon or interfering with a person's privacy. Some intangible parts of a licensing visit include:

- When you go into a classroom or any other part of a facility, or a room in a family child care home, always introduce yourself politely to the individual(s) in the room, tell them your position, and let them know why you are conducting the visit. It can be very confusing to people and make them feel uncomfortable when you just come into a room and start looking around; especially if you start opening cupboards and closets.
- When you do visit classrooms and bedrooms in a facility or home and open cupboards, drawers and closets, you show respect by telling the person what you need to look at and why before you open the closet or drawer, and then telling the person immediately if you find a violation or safety issue.
- If a rule violation or safety issue is easily correctible let the provider, director, or staff member know and give them the opportunity to correct it immediately while you are there. ~Dana Andrews

CDHS Brings home 34 Haitian Orphans

As many of you are aware, the Department of Human Services successfully brought home 34 Haitian Orphans in January. We'd been working tirelessly for many days in an effort to bring the children home. It was quite a process and we literally did not know what would happen from one moment to the next. Once we received word that we might be going to Haiti to get these children, we walked the building looking for anyone with experience and a passport who could leave within an hour. The hour turned into days and the destination went from Haiti to Miami to Chicago, to Puerto Rico and we finally found out on Friday that the children would be arriving in Orlando. We asked those with a packed bag, stamina and two days to spare to accompany us on the trip. Those who could not travel helped out on the ground. All of this resulted in an amazing experience in uniting these children with their adoptive families. ~ Rosemarie Allen



Thank you to all who helped out with this effort!