

June 25, 2010

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

Mark Lapka has moved to Grand Junction; his new phone number is 970-434-7045.

Effective 6/21/10, Karen Sparacino has filled the vacant position of Quality Assurance Coordinator left by Ruby Clay. This position will be supervised by Roger Esquibel.

For one year, beginning with paychecks issued in July 2010, your pay will be reduced by 2.5% of salary, with that amount going to your PERA account.

Department-approved Course of Training for Directors

There has been some confusion regarding the "Department-approved course of training" for Director Qualifications. I would like to provide clarification.

Please note the regulation under director qualifications, 7.702.52B2, referring to Directors of public school preschools.

B. All individuals holding a valid approval letter for director qualifications from the Department of Human Services that matches official Department records are required to take, or have taken, the following five (5) three (3) semester hour courses.

1. One course must be taken every two (2) years from a regionally accredited college or university at either a two year, four year or graduate level in each of the following subject or content areas:

- a. Early childhood guidance strategies;*
- b. Early childhood health, nutrition and safety or child nutrition;*
- c. The exceptional child;*
- d. Infant/toddler theory and practice; or expanding quality in*

infant and toddler training;

e. Administration: human relations for early childhood professions.

*2. Official transcripts from a regionally accredited college or university of the one (1) or more of the five (5) courses shall be submitted to the State Department within thirty days of completing each course until all five (5) courses have been completed. The first course must be completed by May 31, 2012. **Directors of public school preschools must attend a Department-approved course of training in nutrition and implementation of rules regulating child care.***

The interpretation is as follows:

If someone already holds a director letter or has applied for a director letter, and wants to be a director of a public school program AND is missing administration and nutrition this department approved class will cover those two classes (Lisa Straight currently teaches the only department approved course). Applicants will still have to have to take the other courses.

The reason why directors of public school programs can take the department approved class in lieu of nutrition and administration is due to the school supports that are in place (nurse on site, district nutritionists, administration assistance, and other district policies and procedures that public schools adhere to) which is different than that of a child care center.

If an individual has taken this department approved course, the individual still has to submit an application for a director letter with all supporting documentation. If the individual is qualified, Marlina will send the individual a letter to keep on file. This letter states that the qualification is ONLY good at the current school of employment and does not qualify them to be a director of a large child care center or any other facility. If the individual leaves or transfers schools, they must RE-APPLY.

If you have any further questions you may contact Lisa Straight. 720-838-6568. ~Rosemarie Allen

Grants for Non-Profit Centers

Let your non-profit centers know about the upcoming round of Boettcher Foundation Early Learning Capital Fund grants! Applications are due September 3, 2010. There will be three webinars to answer questions about the application on July 7, and August 3rd and 19th from 1-2pm. Those who would like to participate should e-mail Lara (info below) for registration information. There are varying grant amounts up to \$25,000. Capital grants are for permanent physical improvements to facilities, such as playgrounds, fencing, shade, ground cover, sinks, faucets, cabinets/storage, heating, plumbing, roofing, windows, flooring, security and new construction/expansion projects. They don't fund supplies, toys, staff overhead, moveable equipment or furniture. See updated information on this program on www.qualistar.org. Please share this information with anyone you think may be interested. Feel free to contact Lara with any questions.

~ Lara Jakubowski, Consultant to Qualistar Early Learning, Boettcher Foundation Early Learning Capital Fund 303-339-6805 / 720-232-8166 (cell) / boettchergrants@qualistar.org

Provider FAQs/Consistency Questions

Q: Is it true that providers can't use their college classes toward annual training when they are taking them to meet the new Early Childhood Teacher requirements?

A: That is correct. These are two distinct and separate requirements. Educational hours and annual training hours cannot be counted towards the same requirement. If a professional is taking ECE 101 to meet the educational requirement, it CANNOT also be used to meet the ongoing training requirement. If a class is being taken solely for the purpose of staff development and is not being used to meet an educational requirement, it CAN be counted towards annual training hours. ~ Rosemarie Allen

Q: In family child care homes, can parents sign in/out more than one child on a single line with one signature?

A: No, they must sign out each child individually. ~ Carin Rosa

Q: If a provider is living with a boyfriend/girlfriend or common law spouse, do they have to be listed as an applicant on a family child care home license?

A: If the individual is actually a common law husband (present themselves as husband and wife) they will be listed as an applicant on the license. If they are a boyfriend and live in the home they should be listed as a resident of the home and not an applicant. ~ Carin Rosa

Q: Regarding scheduled and unscheduled trips away from the family child care home, can providers have blanket statements?

A: According to rule they must notify the parent of any excursion prior to the event and obtain permission for that excursion, so they can not use a blanket statement as that would not notify the parent of the specific excursion and give them opportunity to opt out if they did not want their child to attend the excursion. ~ Carin Rosa

Respect – Part 4

Editor's note: Before leaving the Division, Dana Andrews wrote a 5-part series for the newsletters titled, "Respect." Three of these articles have appeared in prior newsletters. Here is part 4.

In the last month, if you have changed how you complete your licensing visits, reflect on whether you have made a conscious choice to change your behavior and show more respect to providers. Are you more aware of how you show respect, are polite, and take into account the perceptions and feelings of providers? This article will address the licensing rules and procedures that raise the most anxiety for providers. It is the area of the licensing visit that may not be perceived as necessary by the provider; and may actually be perceived as intruding upon or interfering with their personal privacy. A provider's perception of you, how you treat the provider, and how you conduct the licensing visit is reality to that individual. Perception is an individual's understanding based on what is observed or thought; it is the process by which people interpret and organize what they see and hear to produce a meaningful experience. It is critical that you recognize and understand the perception of the provider during your visit. How you perceive the visit is going may be the complete opposite of the provider's perception. The provider's perception is the reality you are dealing with.

- Part of the visit always involves looking into areas in the home or facility that are personal or locked off and are supposed to be inaccessible to children. How the licensing specialist explains the reason for checking personal and inaccessible areas is critical.
- The immediate perception of the provider is that you are "snooping" into a private area of the provider's life. What people keep in their bedrooms, drawers, cabinets, purses and closets may be so personal that the provider does not want anyone other than a spouse or significant other to see.

Between now and the final article on respect, think about your own personal space in your office, your car and your home. Put yourself in the position of the provider and think about how you would feel to have a "stranger" going through your most personal possessions.

~ Dana Andrews

Thank you, Contributors!

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