

Updated Proposal to Family Child Care Task Force on Surveying Former Providers

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Minnesota's Children's Cabinet is an interagency partnership the Governor and Lieutenant Governor has charged with helping make Minnesota the best place for each and every child to grow up. It is charged with taking a data-driven and results-oriented approach to coordinating, streamlining programs, aligning strategies, and promoting action and accountability of Minnesota's efforts to ensure that each and every Minnesota child, no matter race or zip code, is prepared to be a leader of tomorrow.

Given the impact that lack of access to child care is having in communities across the state, the Children's Cabinet has selected child care and early education as one of its areas of focus.

As part of its cross-agency work to increase child care capacity and support child care businesses, the Children's Cabinet plans to work with its Child Care Action Team and the Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Results Management Team to conduct surveys of former child care providers to further identify reasons for license closure and opportunities to better support existing and new providers. These surveys will be conducted in the coming months and be administered by the Results Management Team, which is supporting the Children's Cabinet in the work of its cross-agency action teams, including the Child Care Action Team. Children's Cabinet staff on the task force have been tracking and participating in the conversation on the survey in the task force and have received an additional briefing of the conversation on the survey at the 12/16 task force meeting because the Children's Cabinet task force representative was unable to attend. Based on the status of the survey in the task force and the plan for the Children's Cabinet to survey child care providers, the Children's Cabinet sees an opportunity to support and build upon the work that the Task Force has done and use the Task Force's survey draft as the basis for the survey of family child care providers who have closed their licenses that it will be working with the Results Team to conduct. The Results Team has expertise in administering surveys and typically has good response rates.

The following are potential benefits of having the Children's Cabinet and the Results Team administer the survey and analyze the results:

- Results Team has administered similar surveys, including to entities regulated by the state, and received good response rates.
- The survey would not be conducted by the agency that regulates licensed child care providers.
- There would be no direct cost to DHS or the Task Force.
- The survey data and analysis will be publicly available by request and will be provided to the Task Force.
- Survey results could be provided to the Task Force when meetings resume after the legislative session ends.
- The survey data could be used by the Task Force and the Children's Cabinet to inform their aligned goals of increased support for current and potential family child care providers.

The next steps are:

- Results Team staff will review the existing survey draft and make modifications as needed, mostly in regards to functionality, research practice and survey science.
 - While the survey will still be anonymous, the Results Team plans to ask respondents whether they are open to being contacted for follow-up questions, in which case they have the option of providing their name and contact information.
- The e-mail request to fill out the survey will reference that it was informed by the work of the Family Child Care Task Force and notify respondents that it will inform the Task Force's work.
- The Results Team will use email addresses from DHS for providers who have closed in the past three years (demographics below).
- The Children's Cabinet in partnership of the Results Team may also conduct surveys of existing family child care providers as well as centers.

An analysis of the former providers who closed their licenses during the period of which survey respondents will be drawn:

- There are email addresses for 61% of them.
- Approximately 2/3 are from Greater Minnesota and 1/3 are from the 7-county metro area and the proportion of providers with email addresses is fairly consistent for both groups.
- A large number of the licenses that were closed during this period were held for less than 5 years. There are email addresses for 82% of the former license holders in this group. The percentage with email addresses goes down the longer the provider held their license, dipping to 37% for those who held their licenses more than 20 years.
- More detail about the data is available below:

Between 1/1/2017 and 11/25/2019, 3,106 family child care licenses have closed across Minnesota.	
E-mail	No E-mail
1787	1166
61%	39%

Proportion of family child care license that closed between 1/1/2017 and 11/25/2019 with an e-mail by region		
Region	Total Number of Licenses	Proportion with E-mail
7 County Metro	983	56%
Greater Minnesota	1970	63%

Proportion of family child care licenses that closed between 1/1/2017 and 11/25/2019 with an e-mail by number of years open before closing		
Years Open	Total Number of Licenses	Proportion with E-mail
Less than 5 years	1154	82%
5 to 10 years	582	56%
10 to 15 years	308	50%
15 to 20 years	288	47%
More than 20 years	621	37%