

*Family Child Care Task Force  
Duty #8 Workgroup  
Recommendations*

# Members

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▶ JoAnn Smith

▶ Julie Seydel

▶ Rep. Lisa Demuth

▶ Cyndi Cunningham

▶ Barb Wagner

# Duty #8

*Consider methods to improve access to and understanding of the rules and statutes governing family child care providers.*

# Family Child Care Rules & Statutes

- ▶ Rule 9502
- ▶ Chapter 245A
- ▶ 245C
- ▶ 626.556



# *Recommendations for Legislative Action*

- ▶ Reintroduce ombudsperson bill next session
  - ▶ Position should be independent and not be in DHS
  - ▶ Providers' current relationship and progress with DHS should continue
- ▶ The “Ask DHS” form on DHS website needs to be anonymous and should not require providers to list their licensor.
- ▶ Codify rule into statute or vice versa so that everything is in one place.
- ▶ Update the book of family child care rules and statutes in a timely manner and only sell updated copies.



# *Recommendations for DHS*

# Communication

- ▶ Communication about rules, statutes, and state/federal regulations and any changes to them should (at least) come from DHS. Continue the implementation plans.
- ▶ Offer both paper and electronic options to ensure everyone receives the info (allow providers to opt-in to paperless delivery or opt-in to printed delivery).
- ▶ Offer forms and info in multiple (most common) languages.
- ▶ Maintain an accurate list of every family child care provider with an email address.
- ▶ Send a postcard mailing from DHS to existing providers with the most critical/commonly requested info.



# Provider Involvement

- ▶ Add family child care providers to the implementation plan group.
- ▶ Offer meetings with stakeholders about any proposed legislation before the legislative session begins (no last-minute bill introductions). Inform all providers about these meetings.
- ▶ Update the “[Guide to Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider](#)” to reflect legislative changes in the last few years. Include a few providers, licensors, and DHS in annual review.

# Rules & Statutes

- ▶ Make the “Ask DHS” form on DHS website anonymous and not require providers to list their licensor.
  - Add a search function to form (like a typical support page) for common topics and link to rule/statute or previous answers given by DHS.
- ▶ Summarize each section of rule and statute in one place (possibly use the guide as a starting point) for existing providers. Info should be in plain language: clear, understandable, and as brief as possible. Empower providers to go through the steps.



# *Recommendations for Counties*

# Counties

- ▶ Forward communications from DHS and share county-specific info with providers.
- ▶ Place links to DHS forms and info to ensure it is up-to-date and to save time.
- ▶ Maintain an accurate list of every family child care provider in the county with an email address.
- ▶ Possibly add a pop-up on the county “child care provider” page if there are any updates to rules, statutes, or forms.




# *Recommendations for Providers*

# Providers

- ▶ Providers need to be involved in family child care meetings, plans, hearings, etc.

# *Top Recommendations*

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- ▶ The Duty #8 Workgroup requests that the Family Child Care Task Force supports all of these recommendations.



*Any questions?*